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22 OCTOBER 1986

EAST EUROPE REPORT

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PRICE FUNCTION EFFECTIVENESS IN SOCIALISM DISCUSSED

Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech No 32, 1986 p 5

[Article by Eng Ludvik Dibelka, Federal Price Bureau: "The Role of Prices"]

[Text] In his article "The Magic Spell and Passing of the Buck: National and Enterprise Efficiency" (HOSPODARSKE NOVINY 24, 1986), university lecturer Prof Jaromir Kolar points out repeatedly that our current price system and pricing have failed to express efficiency well enough; he supports his assertion with examples and proposes a solution. I wish to offer here my comment.

In the macrostructure and often even at the level of the lowest economic links the decision-making process is based largely on value indicators derived mainly from prices. The standard of quality of prices is thus considerably affected by economic developments. On the other hand, the role of prices cannot be exaggerated so as to believe that our national economy could be determined by them.

The Case of the Tire

The article notes that if the service life of a tire is doubled, then, because of the current pricing system, the result will be a sharp decline of its production and of profits.

The example of tires is so "simple and graphic" that it is incorrect. I presume that the author had in mind wholesale prices. So let us say that the price of a tire with a service life of 40,000 km, as stated by Prof Jaromir Kolar, is Kcs 200, and its production costs amount to Kcs 180. With annual production of 1,000 tires the production costs are Kcs 200,000 and profits Kcs 20,000. The new tire has a service life of 80,000 km and according to Prof Kolar the price of one tire will increase 30 percent. This increase of costs (here I simplify) is obviously calculated from the cost of tires with a service life of 40,000 km, which would mean that the costs of a new tire according to our example would equal Kcs 234. However, what price was used in the calculation? The same as for the tire with a service life of 40,000 km, or another price? The service life of goods is one of the important parameters used in pricing. Occasionally it is the determining indicator. Therefore, wholesale prices of tires with a service life of 80,000 km must obviously be

higher. If they remain the same, then the more efficient products would be unprofitable, and the effort of the enterprise would be completely wasted.

The wholesale price of the tire with a longer service life would be set pursuant to price regulations, for example, with the aid of parametric methods (Price Listing No 113/1985 of the Collection), where price relations are given by the following functions:

$$y = a + bx, \text{ or}$$

$$y = ax^p, \text{ or in general terms}$$

$$y = f(x_1 \dots x_n),$$

where

y - the price of the new product

a, b, p - calculated constants

x - amount of the determining parameter

f - functional dependence between the price and the determining parameters

$x_1 \dots x_n$ - individual determining parameters which are measurable and which may be numerically expressed.

These principles clearly demonstrate that with the growth of functional parameters the price of the product increases, but at the same time, they stipulate that the price per unit of the parameter must decline with the increase of the parameter, in other words, the price per 1 km of service life of the old tire is Kcs 0.005, but for a tire with a longer service life it cannot be twice that amount because then the wholesale price of that tire would be Kcs 899. On the contrary - the price per 1 km of service life must be less than Kcs 0.005.

If we continue the above-mentioned process, the price per 1 km of service life should be within the Kcs 0.0035-0.004 range. In its absolute amount the wholesale price of a new tire would total Kcs 280-320, and thus, it may cost, for example, Kcs 295 (actually, the new price is accurately calculated, for instance, according to the price scale).

For this price the consumers acquire a product whose service life is twice as long and whose price is only 47.5 percent higher. Having driven 80,000 km on the old tires, the consumer paid Kcs 200 x 8, i.e., Kcs 1,600, but with the new tires only Kcs 295 x 4, i.e., Kcs 1,180, and thus he saved Kcs 420.

How is it with the manufacturer? The costs increased to Kcs 234, i.e., 30 percent; the wholesale price went up 47.5 percent, and profits rose from Kcs 20 to Kcs 61. If the manufacturer produces one half of the tires, i.e., 500 tires, it means that his annual output is Kcs 147,500 and his profits Kcs 30,500. The volume of his production declined 26.5 percent and his profits rose 52.5 percent. If the costs increased 30 percent, we may assume with certainty that this obviously indicates higher increases of material consumption and lower wage increases. In other words, if according to calculations the manufacturer produced a volume of production equal to Kcs 147,500, it is more lucrative for him to produce the new tire with a service life of 80,000 km as compared with the volume of production of tires with a service life of 40,000 km, because [the new tires] are less labor-

intensive with regard to their price and therefore with regard to current pricing. Now it depends on the manufacturer to guarantee the above-mentioned service life and confirm it in the suggested price.

Problem of Service Life

The current system of pricing reflects the "necessary aspects of the development of utility." I cannot go into details in this article and so I shall present here the most relevant factors.

The most usual price-setting method is based on the derivation of prices from foreign price relations, i.e., the price of a new product is derived from the average relation between the prices of two foreign products, one of them similar to the new product and the other to a domestic product with an established wholesale price. This method disregards the manufacturer's costs and applies world price relations.

Another method of pricing is based on the derivation of the wholesale price from export price. The wholesale price of a new product is derived from the price actually achieved, quoted as all charges paid at the CSSR border. Our manufacturer will invoice the consumer for the amount for which the product sells in world markets. In certain instances the wholesale price is derived from the retail price, i.e., essentially from the price accepted in domestic market. Parametric methods of setting wholesale prices were mentioned above in connection with tires. Price standards and pricing methods are determined according to systems of material and wage standards, other direct costs, and the rates of indirect costs and profits. The last pricing method is accounting comparison and individual calculation based on manufacturer's costs, although some of indirect costs and profits are limited by rates set by price bureaus.

This very brief account demonstrates that pricing mainly follows methods based on foreign prices and applied parameters.

The essential indicator--service life--plays a role among those parameters. Our price regulations stipulate, among other things, that greater reliability, longer service life or improvement of other basic qualities of a new product, which may be verified only by using that product, may be expressed in the price in proportion to the costs required to achieve those qualities only if either the supplier offers the consumers a guarantee that the same standards will be fully maintained, or if such improvements have been tested and guaranteed by the state (or the ministry's) testing laboratories.

Service life is the determining parameter, for example, for light bulbs (expressed in lumens), in trucks (mileage prior to the first major overhaul), in high-lift trucks (hours of operation). On the other hand, service life of shirts, clothes or socks cannot be expressed in hours of wear. Trousers made

from the same material and of the same cut may be worn much longer by a 40-year old man than by a 12-year old boy. The service life parameter does not affect pricing of some goods (for instance, calendars).

The pricing system is based mostly on the application and derivation of prices from the effect of utility for the consumer (user) of the product. It is not blindly based on the manufacturer's costs alone. Therefore, ordinance of the CSSR government No 112/1986 of the collection on state price control specifies that the relation between prices and service life in new products be more favorable in terms of national economy than in goods manufactured until now.

Two Kinds of Prices

Prof Jaromir Kolar obviously proposes that two sets of prices be used for each product, one set of "constant" prices of "new or improved goods in closest conformity with the overall increase of the utility of the goods (we may call them parametric prices of utility)," and the other set of prices expressing the "costs."

In fact, it is not possible to explain why these two sets of prices may be necessary for daily economic use. After all, the manufacturer is interested in the first place in prices at which he will market his goods, because invoicing is included in the fulfillment of the production plan. From the managers' point of view, it is almost impossible to report the fulfillment of the plan in two sets of prices. By which would the enterprise be rated? Which would be decisive? I refrain from mentioning here the enormous rise in administrative costs at every level of management due to the setting and determination of two sets of prices for one product. Moreover, every product cannot be measured according to utility parameters (for example, flatware).

The proposal presented by Prof Jaromir Kolar in the conclusion of his article is in the second part an oversimplified and inaccurate expression of his calculations. Then the rate of costs, which is usually included among appropriate items in accounting, is presented. The first part [of the proposal] seems to contain parameters.

The formula which is verbally expressed in the part of the article entitled "The Common Denominator--Adaptation of the Management" includes only the numerator; the denominator is unclear because "from the thus determined constant unit of functional quality we follow the development of the whole sum of all remaining variables expressed in value (i.e., the sum of production costs) and divided by total utility life (the result being the cost per unit of service life)."

I do not know whether the author actually tried to figure calculations based on that expression. I shall make such an attempt. According to Prof Jaromir Kolar, 1 km of mileage is the main functional indicator of an automobile,

100,000 km is its service life, and Kcs 30,000 is the total production cost which I selected for our calculation. If I apply this method in the formula, for example, for an automobile, then:

$$\frac{1 \text{ km}}{\frac{\text{Kcs } 30,000}{100,000 \text{ km}}} = \frac{1 \text{ square km}}{\text{Kcs } 0.3}$$

Thus, the result indicates that 1 square km of the automobile [sic] or 1 square km driven by the automobile costs Kcs 0.3. It is obvious that such a result is most unusual. I could go on in this way with examples of refrigerators and pumps, not to mention fashion goods and assessments of their service life. The presumed simple conclusive method does not offer the necessary applicable data.

How does pricing apply utility parameters of goods? First of all, it proceeds from specific dimensions according to individual products. For instance, fuel consumption of automobiles in liter per 100 km at 90 km/hour, furthermore, the mileage in km before a major overhaul. It is one of the basic indicators of service life, which is compared to the effect of a similar product. However, a single indicator cannot be applied for passenger automobiles or trucks.

The pricing system distinctly considers the effect of the price of new production assets on the cost for the consumer. Our price regulations stipulate that the wholesale price of new production assets must be determined so as to facilitate reduction of the costs for the consumer. Price increase is not justified if it is not balanced by corresponding reduction of costs or by other economic benefits in the subsequent process of production or in consumption.

Current Practice

In the past pricing used to be always only on the borderline of interest of the economic management. Only the demand for more intensive management emphasized the important role of prices in that process.

As we mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, pricing methods are now being updated. The Laboratory for Price Computing at the Federal Price Bureau prepared a universal automated program (the PTC system) which computes prices (mathematic functions) and which is available to all organizations in the data bank of standard programs distributed by the Kancelarske Stroje [Office Equipment] national enterprise.

Pricing does not enter the economic process at the moment when the production of goods begins. Price limits which determine the upper range of the domestic or export price of a future product are mechanisms already affecting the development of the product and its pre-production stages. Our price regulations stipulate that a price ceiling be set so as to cut the price of the production asset per unit of the determining parameter.

Our current price system consistently reflects the products' utility life and parameters and at the same time it offers advantages to manufacturers who have introduced more essential innovations. Preferential pricing is granted to goods classified as first quality by the state testing laboratory or designated by appropriate authorities as technically advanced. A product that may reduce the consumer's energy consumption is also preferentially priced.

Conversely, pricing penalizes goods classified as third quality, technically outdated goods and produces which are not energy-efficient. Preferential or punitive pricing pertains to a wider range than I have mentioned here, but the scope of this article does not permit me to discuss it in greater detail.

My intention was to point out that most of the demands on the pricing system which Prof Jaromir Kolar poses are not unknown and that they have already been resolved some time ago.

Efficiency calculations under the conditions of socialist production are, of course, a very complex matter. The current situation stems from the tedious, extensive management system of the past. Obviously, the solution will be in comparing the technical and economic parameters and the prices of our goods with manufacturers from the CEMA countries and with manufacturers from advanced capitalist states.

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CSO: 2400/404

OIL PRICE, DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE TO ADVERSELY AFFECT NATION'S TRADE

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 12 Sep 86 p 5

[Unattributed article: "Reduction of Western Indebtedness Endangered: Experts Anticipate Decline in Export Earnings in the GDR"]

[Text] The drop in the price of oil and the decline in the value of the dollar on international currency markets this year are endangering the GDR's efforts to achieve a positive balance in export trade and continued reduction of its indebtedness to the West. This is the view of specialists in FRG. They expect a decline in export revenues in the GDR this year in terms of billions. In the best possible scenario, the loss will be limited to about M 1.5 billion, but it may be as high as M 2.5 billion. This would result in the GDR's failing to show an export surplus in trade with the West for the first time since 1982 and in its inability to discharge its debts at desired levels. Over the past three years, the GDR was able to transform its years-long negative balance of trade with Western countries into a positive one and according to its own statistics, registered surpluses of more than \$1 billion annually. In this way it created the prerequisites for the reduction of its indebtedness to the West.

At the end of 1981, the net indebtedness of the GDR at the institutes associated with the Bank for International Settlements had risen to almost \$8 billion, not including an estimated additional \$2-3 billion of suppliers' credit. As of March of this year, the GDR had succeeded in reducing this net indebtedness to \$3.7 billion. At the same time, last year the GDR was able to replace short-term by long-term credits. This was possible after the federal government had helped the GDR in 1983 and 1984 to obtain two free bank credits amounting to billions, by means of spectacular decisions. In FRG government circles, the possibility is not ruled out that the restructuring of the GDR's debts--during this phase the GDR acquired an available positive balance of \$6.5 billion--was interrupted by the price collapse on the oil market and that the GDR's indebtedness to the West is once again increasing.

Since the beginning of the 1980's, the GDR has greatly expanded its sales of petroleum products in exchange for Western currency, making this by now one of its most important sources of hard currency. Revenues last year from this trade are estimated at about \$2.5 billion. Should the annual average price for petroleum products from the GDR amount to \$140, a figure which experts

regard as not improbable (in 1985 this figure was \$250), these revenues would decrease by more than \$1 billion or more than M 2 billion. The GDR would have to bear considerable additional losses if it accounts for a portion of its exports of petroleum products in dollars, since the dollar may lose 20-30 percent of its value. This could result in a loss in revenues of M 2.5 billion.

Western experts also point out that the drop in value of the dollar has now begun to have a significant impact on the debt situation of the GDR in the West. At the end of September of last year, the GDR had a gross indebtedness of \$9.4 billion and a positive balance of \$5.9 billion. At the end of March of the current year, the corresponding figures were \$10.2 and \$6.5 billion. Because of the fact that the GDR took out a portion of its Western credit in currencies other than the dollar, its indebtedness--calculated in dollars--increased by an estimated \$360 million, while the value of funds it borrowed on non-dollar markets in the West rose at the same time by \$200 million.

Since 1980, the basis of the crude oil business as the most important source of hard currency in the GDR has been the annual import of 22-23 million tons of crude oil, which do not have to be paid for in hard currency. The largest portion in terms of quantity, 17 million tons, is supplied by the USSR in return for transferable rubles; a good million tons of crude oil is purchased by the GDR in the FRG within the framework of intra-German trade, for which the GDR also need provide no hard currency, since intra-German trade is carried out in accounting units; 4-5 million tons come from Libya, Iraq, Iran, Angola and Mexico, according to Western estimates. These countries usually are paying for goods purchased from the GDR by means of these oil transactions. Since the GDR has been successful in greatly reducing its own consumption of crude oil since the beginning of the 1980's, it requires only a portion of this oil to meet its own needs. It is estimated that since 1984, the GDR has been able to export 11-13 million tons annually of this raw material which is further refined in the GDR into oil products in exchange for hard currency. Since the GDR does not publish export statistics and Western figures, such as those of the OECD, are regarded as insufficient, experts remain without precise statistical material and are forced to resort mostly to educated guesswork. It is believed that the GDR will attempt to limit its losses by means of expanding its exports--an increase of up to 10 percent is regarded as possible. Nor can it be ruled out that the GDR was able to take timely steps to prevent currency losses by means of appropriate precautionary measures such as currency futures trading.

In the view of the experts, this does not alter the fact that for the foreseeable future, the GDR may have no opportunity to compensate for revenue losses caused by the drop in oil prices amounting to billions on Western markets through increased exports in other sectors. This allows the composition of its exports to be clearly recognized. According to an OECD report, in 1984--the last year for which overall figures are available--64 percent of GDR exports to the Western industrial nations were basic materials. More than half were oil, oil derivatives and chemical products. Only 19 percent of exports were investment goods, 10 percent consumer goods--especially textiles--as well as 3 percent farm products. A change in this commodities structure appears to be possible only to a limited extent, because

the investment goods of the GDR are increasingly losing their ability to compete with those of other vendors. Furthermore, the GDR is also coming increasingly under competitive pressure from the threshold countries in the area of consumer goods such as textiles, since the threshold countries have now achieved clear competitive advantages. At the present time there is not one single product with which the GDR holds a decided market advantage. To be sure, one cannot deduce from all this short-term needs of the GDR, such as occurred in 1983 when East Berlin had to seek Bonn's help in securing a billion mark credit. However, it is thought that the problems which are beginning to be felt in the mid-term for exports from the GDR to the West and which are expected to have a serious impact on the longer-range credit needs of the GDR are all the more serious.

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CSO: 2300/563

OFFICIALS RELUCTANT TO DISCLOSE CONFLICTS IN PRODUCTIVITY

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 2 Sep 86 p 12

[Article by Hans Herbert Goetz: "The Great Magic Formula in Leipzig: CAD/CAM is Supposed to Help Increase Productivity in the GDR"]

[Text] Anyone unfamiliar with CAD/CAM no longer understands anything in the GDR today. No official declaration, no essay without mentioning CAD/CAM. CAD/CAM, or, to put it somewhat succinctly, computer-assisted means of production, has become the great magic formula. Robots and microelectronics are supposed to help eliminate the undisputed lag in productivity in the GDR, not only in industry, but also in the large agricultural cooperatives. The first CAD/CAM jokes have been around for quite some time, and even the famous Leipzig cabaret "Akademixer" has adopted the magic formula: the assistant cook at a plant cafeteria ("I'm responsible for the soup. With me there's always enough soup.") is honored by the director as a meritorious colleague and sent to a CAD/CAM training program, where he is completely bewildered. The audience chortles with pleasure, since this sketch realistically portrays everyday life in actually existing socialism.

The CAD/CAM development has just begun, there are many difficulties in the plants, not only because English is the computer language even in the GDR and many workers first have to learn the English vocabulary, which is, to be sure, quite limited. The nationally-owned enterprises have remained an inexhaustible source of material for the cabaret performers in Leipzig, and the only times the "Academixer" are not sold out, according to Juergen Hart ("Sing, my Saxon, sing"), are when the newspaper has listed wrong performance times.

The Leipzig cabarets, the theater and concert performances, of course the motets of the St. Thomas Boys Choir on Saturday afternoons, these form one of the two aspects of the Leipzig Fair spectacle. The other half consists of receptions and fair transactions, of Western automobiles, an influx of hard currency, much, much "security," of socialist slogans concerning the modern key technologies, which are offered in a hundred different variations. Between these two worlds, there are overlappings, such as when the very .pa noticeable (over 6 foot tall) president of the German Foreign Trade Bank, Werner Polze, together with a quite illustrious fair guest listens to the Bach motet "Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden" in the St. Thomas Church.

Also related to the Leipzig Fair are the additional influxes of provisions, which are eagerly anticipated by the population. At 10 p.m. on Friday evening before the opening of the fair, two truckers from Rumania stand at the "Vitamin Bazaar" in the center of town, which, as every year, is offering the longed-for "fruit of the vine." The two impressive Volvo vehicles with French refrigeration and American hydraulic devices have punctually completed the long haul from the Balkan. On Saturday morning the lines form quickly at the cash registers, although at M 3.60 per kilo, grapes are not exactly inexpensive. The city is bustling with life, the shops are open this Sunday, everyone knows that during the fair you can buy things that are otherwise unobtainable. Even "Otto" has finally reached Leipzig; to be sure, tickets cost 1 1/2 times as much, intra-German togetherness. Prices in general, which for many years were of no great interest to GDR residents, have now become a subject of constant discussion. The basic foods, rent and transportation fees are still as low as ever, but even under socialism man does not live from bread alone. For many, a fashionable skirt or a pair of good shoes cost half a month's salary. Even entrance into the "Club 21" of the FDJ club of the BKO costs M 5.10; a group of young people is still gathered there tonight, wanting to get in to hear "Pop with Computer Sound" with the group Soft from Leipzig.

Construction and renovation is still being carried out in the old part of the city, but the underground convention hall has not yet been completed, leaving a large gaping hole in front of City Hall. One hears complaints that all of the good construction workers have been ordered to Berlin, the capital: "It's almost like under absolutism, where the prince had tremendous influence on the distribution of manpower."

The Politburo portrays an excellent picture of the GDR economy, but candid discussion partners openly admit that the situation is not as rosy as has been depicted. Nonetheless, the grain harvest was very good. In the fields of the fertile Magdeburg "Boerde," the best that the GDR has, one nationally-owned enterprise harvested 81 double centners of grain per hectare, a superb accomplishment. The total grain harvest promises to be about as good as last year's; however, the situation for potatoes and sugar beets does not look quite so good.

The global growth figures of 4-5 percent appear positive, but the differences among the enterprises are still very large. Guenter Mittag, the influential economic policy maker, swings his whip over the combines. Evidently many enterprises have still not been able to establish a continuous production rhythm. A long-established pattern for all planned economies: in the first two-thirds of each month--the same is true also for the months of the year--the production rhythm is continually disturbed because of the lack of materials and parts, and in the last third the great rush begins, because the plan has to be met. The plan is still regarded as the highest law.

Constantly overheard in conversations, even with influential people, is the sense of alienation concerning the openness with which the Soviet secretary general Gorbachev discusses basic economic issues of the Soviet Union: unlike in the GDR, these talks are evidently published in an unedited form and make for exciting reading. This is uncustomary, even unprecedented in the GDR: "We

don't understand why Gorbachev wants to display these problems to the general public. In any case, these are not our problems, we have other concerns." Whether here a conflict is gradually building?

Finally, on Sunday afternoon, the trip back to Berlin: it is the last day of vacation, heavy returning traffic. Long lines at the gas stations, extending onto the highway. In Leipzig, police are stationed every 50 meters, along with the unavoidable civil security forces. It is clear that the Politburo has not yet departed. Somewhere near Dessau, the first advance vehicle passes with a white flashing light at a high rate of speed, this clearly means that the convoy will soon follow. After ten minutes, the next vehicle, this time with a red light; the autobahn is cleared, all vehicles are detoured onto the parking areas, where the cars are tightly jammed together and wait. After 15 minutes, the convoy of large Volvos and Citroens in echelon races at about 150 km/hour down the highway which has been cleared on one side, followed by the ambulance. When Erich Honecker and his colleagues have been sitting for some time over their Sunday afternoon coffee, the police along the autobahn are once again picked up by trucks. They have probably been waiting some 4-5 hours; it was just the same the day before, for the trip to Leipzig.

12792

CSO: 2300/563

ECONOMIST REFUTES WESTERN CRITICISM OF OPTIMISTIC 5-YEAR PLAN

East Berlin WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFT in German Vol 34 No 8, Aug 1986
pp 1157-70

[Article by Rolf Espenhayn, Dr of Economics, certified instructor, born 1936, scientific assistant with the Central Institute for Economics, GDR Academy of Sciences. Original title of the article: "Bourgeois Critique of Socialism in Growing Conflict with Socialist Economic Practice"]

[Text] Against the background of the GDR's successful economic and social development in the preceding five-year planning period, the author makes a critical assessment of bourgeois charges against socialism. The ideological dispute is presently focused on problems related with scientific and technical progress. Bourgeois economists lay increasing emphasis on the capability and preparedness for innovation. At the same time, they make use of the property-rights notion, a notion particularly favoured in publications in the English-speaking world, to intensify their attacks against the social property of the means of production and the system of socialist property.

The author gives a critical analysis of these positions. Furthermore, he points to a number of substantial tasks to be fulfilled by the bourgeois critique of socialism within the framework of its essential functions and underlines the superior position of socialism in mastering scientific and technological progress. [This summary published in English in the original]

The GDR has carried out the decisions of the 10th Party Congress with good results and thereby has created decisive prerequisites for the resolute solution of the tasks of the new 5-year plan 1986 to 1990. Above all, "with the help of our economic strategy we succeeded in carrying out the turn to comprehensive intensification of production and starting a far-reaching renewal process of production. In essential areas the GDR kept pace with the accelerated international pace of scientific-technical progress and even reached top positions." (Footnote 1) ("Report of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany to the 11th Party Congress of the SED," reporter: E. Honecker, Dietz Publishing Company, East Berlin 1986, p 26 f.) These successes were achieved despite great foreign trade burdens, despite an intensified policy of confrontation by imperialism, the increased gravity of the international situation, and despite numerous interference maneuvers by the most

reactionary circles of imperialism. The workers of our country have further strengthened the order of socialist society and have thus accomplished something which--as Erich Honecker stated in the report to the 11th Party Congress--"is appreciated by its friends, and cannot be overlooked by its enemies." (Footnote 2) (Ibid., p 6)

Successful Balance Sheet of the 5-Year Plan 1981-1985 and Bourgeois Defensive Positions

During the past 5 years, the course of the major task was resolutely continued in its unity of economic and social policy. It found expression in the improved working and living conditions of many people, particularly in improved housing conditions through the continuation of the housing construction program. Its essential basis was the turn to comprehensive intensification of production. The development period from 1981 to 1985 in the GDR can be assessed as the most successful so far, showing the greatest increase in performance. During this period, a national income of 1.087 billion Marks was created.

Among the outstanding achievements was also the stable and dynamic growth in 1985 on the basis of intensively expanded reproduction (Footnote 3) (See NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, 18/19 Jan 1986, p 3), which was reflected in the 4.8 percent increase in produced national income; more than 90 percent of this increase resulted from higher work productivity.

The party's resolute orientation toward acceleration of scientific-technical progress bore fruit. Five thousand new products, procedures and technologies were put into production in 1985, among them newly developed products in industry and the construction business in the amount of 93 billion Marks. At the end of the year, 56,600 industrial robots were employed in the GDR national economy. Lowering production consumption, and specific savings in materials due to scientific-technical measures, also contributed considerably to increased performance. The effectiveness of science and technology was continually augmented through the goal-oriented development of key technologies. Important results were

- development of the technological base of microelectronics,
- creation of computer-based jobs for automated construction, projection and control of production processes,
- application of modern computer technology for the efficiency of production, circulation and service sector processes,
- increasing the degree of mechanization and automation of production through the use of flexible automated manufacturing systems,
- development and use of new work materials,
- introduction of new processing technologies.

Characteristic of this development is the close connection between science and production, to be developed even further in the future.

Naturally, bourgeois economists and politicians cannot ignore the economic, scientific-technical and social achievements of the GDR forever,

if they do not wish to lose completely their credibility and ideological effectiveness. However, their findings and admissions do not keep pace with the tempo of our development; they come in small doses and with obvious reluctance.

At the 11th symposium of the "Research Office for All-German Economic and Social Affairs" in November 1985, the debate centered on "the economy of the GDR at the end of the 5-year planning period." In his last appearance as manager of this institution, even K.C. Thalheim had to admit that the GDR during the past 5 years had made "some progress," particularly with regard to greater stability and growth, quite considerable internationally. He spoke of the significance of the changes in the economic system and pointed to the continuity of our economic policy, which had been greater than the change. (Footnote 4) (See DEUTSCHLAND-ARCHIV, Cologne, Vol 2/1985, p 182 ff.)

Whoever, at the beginning of the plan period, had expected spectacular changing processes, saw himself disappointed at the end of the 5-year plan. The expectation of many bourgeois economists, that the drastic deterioration of foreign trade conditions at the beginning of the 1980's would force the GDR economy to its knees, was not fulfilled. "The capability of our socialist planned economy to react effectively and flexibly to the requirements of the international market was again demonstrated at this year's Leipzig Fair. It is also attested to by the development of foreign trade revenues which in 1985 were 50 percent higher than in 1980." (Footnote 5) (Report of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany to the 11th Party Congress of the SED, op. cit., p 24)

Representatives of more moderate positions at the aforementioned symposium also pointed to GDR successes. K. Hohmann spoke of the most successful period of GDR agriculture to date; M. Melzer was of the opinion that there was a meaningful structural policy underlying the forming of combines, and D. Cornelsen summed up that overall, positive elements dominated the past 5 years.

These theses are still far from being commonly accepted by bourgeois economics. Thus they set off a violent debate in which many of the old anticommunist cliches surfaced. If GDR successes must be acknowledged, then at least not as the deliberate result of the economic and social policy of the SED. While it was claimed at the beginning of the 5-year plan that the GDR lacked "a well-formulated concept of social policy" (Footnote 6) (See DEUTSCHLAND-ARCHIV, op. cit., Vol 1/1980, p 88 f.), in 1985 the question was whether the forming of combines in the GDR was the result of a developed concept, or represented only a kind of "crisis management." (Footnote 7) (Ibid., Vol 2/1986, p 182 ff.)

The GDR today possesses "a well-functioning system of socialist planned economy. It has proven to be capable of performance, dynamic and flexible." (Footnote 8) (Report of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany to the 11th Party Congress, op. cit., p 44) For

decades, bourgeois economics has attacked this planning system without being able to prevent its stable development. In the process of further developing and perfecting the planning system, the bourgeois side speculated greatly about "system-changing reforms" and made "recommendations" on how to "improve" the socialist system of planning and control. A. Schueller, for example, deplored not seeing any indication of a liberalization of the control system, but rather noted a counterpressure toward recentralization, "with which the Communist Party is trying to force its totalitarian claim in politics and economics, despite all the well-meant Western expectations of liberalization." (Footnote 9) (A. Schueller, "Innovationsprobleme und wirtschaftspolitische Experimente im Systemvergleich" Innovation problems and economic policy experiments in a systems comparison, in "Innovationsprobleme in Ost und West" Innovation problems in East and West, "SCHRIFTEN ZUM VERGLEICH VON WIRTSCHAFTS-ORDNUNGEN," Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart, New York, Vol 33/1983, p 5)

All these "well-meant Western expectations of liberalization" aim at undermining the social foundations of socialism: liquidation of socialist property rights, repression of central planning and control, and removal of the rule of the working class under the leadership role of its party. For this very reason it is so important that "the fundamental economic processes remain firmly in the hands of the state." (Footnote 10) (Report of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany to the 11th Party Congress, op. cit., p 44) Despite all changes and restructuring of the planning and control system, democratic centralism remains the basic principle of our economic management. The economic successes of the past years confirm its accuracy.

Realistic thinkers among bourgeois economists, such as Cornelsen, Melzer and Scherzinger, also come to the conclusion that the present economic mechanism is more appropriate and effective for solving current problems than in the 1970's. They see GDR successes especially in the reduction of specific energy and material consumption, achieving a surplus in foreign trade with capitalist countries, dynamic economic growth, and improvement in supplies. (Footnote 11) (See DEUTSCHLAND-ARCHIV, op. cit., Vol 2/1985, p 151) Their analyses are factual in form, relevant in content, and to a large extent free from anticommunist baiting against the GDR.

Scientific-Technical Progress as the Hub in Ideological Dispute

In the dispute of bourgeois economists about scientific-technical progress under socialism, the problems of innovation capability and willingness to innovate move ever more into the center of the argument. Mostly, a contradiction between individual and overall economic innovation interests is fabricated which allegedly can only be solved through system-changing reforms, since on all levels of socialism only insufficient mobilization of the willingness to perform and take risks is possible. In this context, bourgeois attacks are also directed against economic policy measures which are being implemented in the course of intensification of the socialist economy, such as the formation of industrial combines and related changes.

Conservative critics deny socialism's capacity for innovation in general and thus challenge the ever closer connection between the socialist planned economy and scientific-technical revolution, which is a decisive advantage of socialism. The main bourgeois arguments aim in the following directions: (Footnote 12) (See U. Wagner, "Innovationsprobleme im Wirtschaftssystem der DDR" [Innovation problems in the economic system of the GDR], in "Das Wirtschaftssystem der DDR. Wirtschaftspolitische Gestaltungsprobleme," SCHRIFTEN ZUM VERGLEICH VON WIRTSCHAFTSORDNUNGEN, op. cit., Vol 30/1983, p 311 ff.)

--scientific-technical progress cannot be centrally planned and therefore, enterprises and combines cannot receive quantifiable and controllable tasks.

--The socialist system of planning and management aims at extensive growth and so hinders inventions and innovations.

--Innovation obstacles also result from the contradiction between the long-term outlook of decisionmaking and the orientation toward annual economic plans.

--The "resource problems typical of the system" also have an obstructive effect on innovations.

--Socialism lacks the possibility of private utilization of inventions through the founding of firms.

--Because of a lack of competition and "unfree" access to the goods and performance supply, the drive for innovation is lowered.

--The socialist index system also impedes innovations because it enables enterprises to oppose innovations.

Socialist economic practice, however, shows a different picture: the innovation movement in the GDR grows from year to year. In 1970, there were about 700,000 innovators in the state-owned industry; in 1985, there were about 2 million, meaning that the share of innovators among the employed rose from 16 percent to 35 percent. In the 5-year planning period 1981 to 1985, 2.5 million innovative proposals were implemented in industry. The annual benefit from the application of innovations increased as follows: 1971 to 1975, 16.7 billion Marks; 1976 to 1980, 21.1 billion Marks; 1981 to 1985, 26.7 billion Marks. In 1985 alone, the annual benefit of innovations transferred to practice amounted to 5.9 billion Marks. During the same period, there were 11,800 applications for patents. (Footnote 13) (See NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, 18/19 Jan 1986, and 17/18 May 1986)

These examples demonstrate the creativity of inventors, innovators and efficiency experts and prove the innovation capability of the socialist economic system as well as the workers' willingness to innovate. Of course, there are also obstacles, which are determinedly overcome through economic policy measures, economic experiments and scientific economic research in the course of comprehensive intensification. "The formation and strengthening of combines in particular was a decisive step to advance the development of productive forces--to combine science and production in the closest manner, to create favorable conditions for a high renewal rate of production and technologies, to better master the entire cycle from basic research to scientific-technical production preparation as well as

production and marketing--in order to keep pace, and gain ground, in international competition. The significant progress in effectiveness attained in the first half of the 1980's is particularly due to the performance capacity we gained through the combines. They not only proved to be reliable partners in our own national economy, but also in international trade relations." (Footnote 14) (G. Friedrich, "Die Wirtschaftsstrategie der DDR im Kampf zwischen Sozialismus und Imperialismus" [The economic strategy of the GDR in the battle between socialism and imperialism], in "Probleme der Systemauseinandersetzung zwischen Sozialismus und Imperialismus" [Problems of systems confrontation between socialism and imperialism], LPW-FORSCGUNGSHEFTE, No 4/1985, p 35)

The bourgeois viewpoints on this complex of problems are not at all uniform. While U. Wagner, for example, would like to deny the socialist economic system any capacity for innovation and relegate scientific-technical achievements to the area of imitation--a method, incidentally, which is still very common in bourgeois criticism of socialism--, H. Leipold no longer denies in principle the innovation capacity of socialism. In his opinion, however, the willingness toward innovation is lacking, not being sufficiently stimulated in socialism. "The essential obstacle to innovation," he writes, "must rather be looked for in defects of willingness for innovations, i.e., in the determinant of motivation. Evidently, the planned economic incentive system stimulates only inadequately risk-taking and innovative attitudes." (Footnote 15) (H. Leipold, "Eigentumsrechte, Oeffentlichkeitsgrad und Innovationsschwaechen--Lehren aus dem Systemvergleich" [Property rights, degree of public influence and innovation weakness--lessons from a system comparison], in "Innovationsprobleme in Ost und West," op. cit., p 55)

Without wanting to claim that no further improvements in the system of material and morale incentives are necessary, in view of the outstanding achievements accomplished in the GDR in recent years and fully acknowledged at the 11th Party Congress of the SED, these bourgeois arguments more and more grasp at thin air. The publicly accounted-for obligations of many staffs and collectives in honor of the 11th Party Congress make clear that performance goals are oriented at highest world standards and the GDR in many areas has already gained top positions. This concerns new results in science and research and their rapid use in production as well as the manufacture and application of new work substances and materials, the development of new technological procedures and work principles, and the manufacture of new products. Even bourgeois observers characterize research achievements of this type as setting world standards. Regarding this, C. Burrichter and E. Foertsch write: "For 1984, the following could be emphasized, for example:

- isolating monoclonal antibodies (University of Leipzig),
- a new assembly technology for electronic components (Technical University Dresden),
- optic-electronic components for optical fiber transmission (Academy of Sciences),

--a new basic technology for the diode type platinum barrier gate 'Schottky diode' (Academy of Sciences),
--the synthesis of work materials in physics of high pressures (Academy of Sciences).

The GDR also lists top achievements in various other fields, for example in procedural technology--particularly in upgrading of coal--, in medicine--here, especially in cancer research and laser surgery--, in astronomy, in psychology and in biotechnologies." (Footnote 16) (C. Burrichter/E. Foertsch, "Foerderung von Spitzenforschung in der DDR" [Advancement of top research in the GDR], DEUTSCHLAND-ARCHIV, op. cit., Vol 8/1985, p 848)

While under capitalism innovations are pushed through according to the requirements of capital employment behind the worker's back, without his knowledge and support and, often enough, against his interest, under socialism a very different mechanism becomes effective. Here, various levels of interest are built upon requiring a very differentiated system of motivation and stimulation, ultimately based on the performance principle. A precondition is the active participation of the employees, whereby this necessary involvement in the implementation of scientific-technical progress constitutes a decisive advantage and the strength of socialism.

The performances achieved in 1985 by 44,300 youth brigades and 4,000 youth research collectives are eloquent testimony to this. An essential contribution to increased performance was made by savings of 110 million working hours and 12,600 jobs, as well as earnings of 2.4 billion Marks due to economizing in materials. (Footnote 17) (See NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, 18/19 Jan 1986, p 3) But even more important than this direct material utilization is the socialist way of mastering scientific-technical progress in which the young generation is introduced to science and technology, is included in the solution of current problems, and is being prepared for the mastery of science and technology in the year 2000.

Since such a road is impossible under capitalist conditions, and non-acceptance is an occurrence caused by socio-economic conditions, the comprehension of bourgeois economists apparently reaches its limits in such questions.

Since Leipold distinguishes between two innovation determinants under viewpoints of the theory of order, namely "being able to," and "wanting to," he is forced to admit that socialism, on the basis of its educational system and scientific-technical potential, quite definitely possesses the required level of technical knowledge. But what Leipold strives for is "theoretical" proof that a socialist planned economy does not have an effective stimulation mechanism and, therefore, cannot overcome its innovation weakness as long as no "system-changing reforms" are carried out. This concept is based on the common economic theory of order which reduces economic systems in an unhistorical manner to information, motivation and decision structures. Although it negates the socio-economic

nature of economic systems, its entire argument is directed against socialist property rights and thereby against the decisive socio-economic cornerstone of socialism. Bureaucratic obstacles are not the cause; it is rather a matter of "an institutional and specifically property-rights failure of the centralized state property." (Footnote 18) (H. Leipold, "Eigentumsrechte, Oeffentlichkeitsgrad und Innovationsschwaechen...", op. cit., p 58) This makes clear that the "well-meant Western liberalization expectations" always aim at counterrevolutionary changes of socialist property rights.

D. Bell, a typical representative of neoconservatism, also leaves no doubt that in discussions of science and technology, he is primarily concerned with strengthening monopolistic capital and stabilizing the capitalistic system, whereby he also polemicizes against socialist property by recommending decentralization and creation of market structures. He claims "that a basic trend of modern industrial society--in the modern capitalist economy as well as in today's communist economy--consists in its growing bureaucratization and centralization. On the other hand, the nature of new technologies demands a high degree of flexibility, since they have many more subordinate models and much greater differentiation than in the system of old technologies. So that the new technologies can be applied effectively, decentralization is needed above all, and the best type of decentralization is the creation of market structures." (Footnote 19) ("Praeludium und Fuge fuer das asiatische Jahrhundert. Die Konturen der postindustriellen Gesellschaft--Ein Gespraeche mit Daniel Bell" [Prelude and fugue for the Asiatic century. The contours of post-industrial society --a talk with Daniel Bell], DIE WELT, 28 Apr 1984, p 100) Although the scientific-technical revolution, in which the application of new technologies plays a central role, brings about greater interdependence of economic sectors, it does not at all require socialization of the means of production, but rather greater flexibility to be achieved by adaptation to the markets.

With Bell, also, one can observe a common economic methodology. Productive forces are not looked upon as a system of objective and subjective factors, nor is enough attention given to the dialectic connection between productive forces and production conditions. Bell sees the basis and the superstructure, the economic and the political system, as two factors independent of each other. In his opinion, political structures are not determined by economic structures. (Footnote 20) (Ibid.)

Such and similar concepts are to strike at the foundation of the socialist economic and social system, are to discredit advantages, driving forces and social achievements, and are to distort objective goals, interests and functional mechanisms of the socialist economy. The outstanding importance of scientific-technical progress in the process of intensification of the socialist economy and the significant role played in our economic strategy by the mastery of the scientific-technical revolution, are not interpreted by bourgeois critics as objective requirements, but are distorted into being means of securing political power positions. The party and government leadership only show such outstanding interest in a rapid

increase in the technological performance capacity of industry because a wrong economic development could lead to public dissatisfaction, thereby creating "factors endangering the security of political power." (Footnote 21) (H. Leipold, "Eigentumsrechte, Oeffentlichkeitsgrad und Innovations-schwaechen...", op. cit., p 52) Objective processes and forces of law are thereby interpreted only on the basis of power-political interests; the mastery of the scientific-technical revolution in socialism is reduced to subjective driving forces (which do exist and have their justification), and is distorted as the legitimation problem of an "elite."

In contrast to capitalism, workers under socialism are not delivered up to an "anonymous" scientific-technical development, but rather are subjects and active co-creators of this process, who optimistically develop their future, free from fear of being touched by technology. But bourgeois ideologists like to transfer fear of technology, non-acceptance, and pessimism about the future as typical attitudes under capitalist production conditions to socialism, also, because it is assumed that the same social conflicts and problems with scientific-technical development arise in socialism as under capitalist conditions. The bourgeois ideologists do not realize that, under socialism, there exists an inseparable linkage between scientific-technical and social progress which significantly forms the attitudes of people, justifies their fundamentally optimistic attitude toward scientific-technical progress, and motivates their commitment.

H. Schueller speaks of system-specific influences "which make it impossible for socialist planned economies to produce their own technological progress to the desired extent." (Footnote 22) (A. Schueller, "Innovationsprobleme und wirtschaftspolitische Experimente im Systemvergleich," op. cit., p 5) In this manner it is to be proven that scientific-technical progress only becomes effective on a "market economy" basis, while under socialism there is no chance for effective implementation of innovations and scientific-technical progress without system-changing reforms, i.e., without transforming the socialist planned economy into a "basic market economy system."

New Attacks Against Socialist Property

By including new theoretical methodological approaches, bourgeois criticism of socialism endeavors "to make the object of economic analyses the self-interests of state and industrial decisionmaking and control authorities, which appear important for the initiation and implementation of innovations, as well as their organizational structure, their legal authority to act, and their financial restrictions." (Footnote 23) (Ibid., p 4) To implement this objective, the property rights approach is used above all to carry out with its help a determined attack against socialist property rights. It is being demanded that there must be greater control by society in socialist countries in order to attain "democratization" of the power of disposal over means of production.

The property rights approach is based on the neoclassic microeconomy and today represents the attempt of the bourgeois economy to address economic facts from a new viewpoint. In this respect it is not a new theory, but rather a changed approach with regard to the neoclassic model theory which --integrated into the overall situation since the 1970's--must be seen as a manifestation of the crisis of the bourgeois economy. The neoconservative nature and the anticommunist thrust are two outstanding characteristics of this concept.

Its frame consists of three categories conceptually adapted to each other: property rights, costs of transactions, and maximizing of individual profits. The starting point is a very broad concept of property, only to be seen in its legal meaning. According to that, property is a large complex of individual rights, such as ownership rights, rights of usufruct and the right of disposal. These individual rights in content can be elaborated in numerous ways; they can be divided among various legal subjects, can be delegated and sold. Legal subjects can be individuals, groups of people, organizations, or the state. National property or property owned by all of society is not tangible in this concept; socialist and capitalist national property are equated. In capitalist countries, the lawmaker must only create general conditions through judicial order to ensure sufficiently large latitude for the concrete shaping of private property rights. This area today is the study object of many bourgeois analyses, because in the past, a gradual "watering down" of property rights of entrepreneurs had occurred due to an accumulation of legal provisions. Not only the right to strike, fought-for codetermination rights and other social achievements of the working class represent such a "watering down" of property rights, but also legal provisions and regulations on environmental protection, social policy and other areas. Defenders of the property rights concept (Footnote 24) (See H. Leipold, "Eigentumsrechte, Oeffentlichkeitsgrad und Innovationsschwaeche...", op. cit., p 62 f.) therefore speak of a "creeping socialization of economic relations" because, allegedly, the performance principle has been eroded by the welfare principle, thus increasing the "degree of public influence" in economic activities and relations.

This "watering down" of the property rights of production means is the real cause of the growing susceptibility to crises and the decreasing innovative drive of the capitalist system. Bourgeois economists come to the conclusion that, through rigorous reduction of social benefits, the position of entrepreneurs must be strengthened and the "watering down" of their property rights counteracted. This would revoke restrictions of their freedom of action and stimulate their willingness for innovation.

This basic concept, with the focus on maximizing individual profit, is also transferred to socialism. With its help one attempts to interpret social processes as well as innovation problems. In this context it is being claimed that in the socialist economic system, the erosion of the rights of disposal and usufruct has progressed much further, performance and counter-considerations have been uncoupled the furthest, and that "the high degree of public influence on economic activities and relations

created in this manner" is reflected in a high technological lag compared to capitalist countries. (Footnote 25) (Ibid., p 63)

Lately, this has been the central problem of bourgeois criticism of socialism with regard to scientific-technical development. It is not bureaucratic obstacles or other "weaknesses of the system" that are brought up; rather, the major attack is launched with the help of the property rights concept against socialist ownership conditions. The lacking willingness for innovation of state leaders is due to their property rights status, characterized by the divergence of disposal and usufruct rights. As on the central level, inadequate willingness for innovation is continued by state managers on the level of combines and factories, also, where too constricted latitudes for decisionmaking prove to be "destimulating conditions." (Footnote 26) (Ibid., p 55 f.)

This complex of problems was also on the agenda of a symposium of the research center comparing economic control systems, dealing with innovation problems in East and West. The NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG reported: "Private property, contractual freedom and individual rights of action are part of the characteristics of a capitalist economic system. However, the more rights of action are reduced, the less effective the incentive system becomes. When East European economic systems are studied from this aspect, it quickly becomes evident that changes in the ownership system and central allocation of production factors reduce innovation incentives to an extraordinarily large extent, and in extreme cases abolish them entirely. Individual economic subjects have neither the incentive nor the possibility of putting production factors to better use through innovative actions. Therefore, innovation is not a process inherent in the system, but rather has to be 'arranged' through planning. This, however, is a much worse starting point which, to a considerable extent, might explain why socialist countries lag behind capitalist systems." (Footnote 27) (NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG, 9 June 1982, p 15)

An essential flaw in this approach consists in absolutizing ownership of the production means into a legal category and formally applying bourgeois ideas of private property rights to the socialist production system. Thus motives of action and attitude known in capitalism are transferred to socialism, and the new driving forces engendered in particular by the nationalization of production means are being "abstracted." The property rights concept is used to ascribe a lower innovative force to socialism than to the capitalist system. As the "negative" example of socialism indicates, the causes of the growing innovation weakness in capitalist countries can only be attributed to the "creeping socialization" of economic relations. Conservatism and anticommunism represent here two sides of the same coin.

The Strength of Socialism in the Confrontation of Systems

In the confrontation of systems, further intensifying at present, scientific-technical progress plays a decisive role. Bourgeois economics

has to fulfill very specific tasks within the framework of its basic functions. Among them are

--theoretical arguments for, and ideological securing of, political strategies of imperialist states vis-a-vis socialist countries (Footnote 28) (See "Osteuropas Wirtschaftsprobleme und die Ost-West-Beziehungen"

East Europe's economic problems and East-West relations, "Osteuropa und der internationale Kommunismus" [East Europe and international communism], Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden-Baden 1985, Vol 14),

--the apologetic transfiguration of the development of productive forces, advancing at a rapid pace today, in the sense of harmonious adjustment to the market mechanism, combined with concealment of new contradictions and social conflicts in capitalism,

--distortion of the problems of scientific-technical progress under socialism, and pointed attacks against its societal foundations.

In the present confrontation of systems, that system of society will come out ahead which is in a position to use scientific-technical progress for the good of the people and for ever better satisfying their material, intellectual and cultural needs; to effect with its aid economic growth and social progress; and to master current problems of securing the future and shaping the environment, as well as controlling social effects and consequences tied to scientific-technical development. It is a common method of bourgeois economics to distract from this compelling connection and to reinterpret it according to bourgeois goals.

"For us Marxist-Leninists, scientific-technical progress, economic growth and social progress are inseparably interlocked. And we are certain that that system will be victorious which is in a position to master these problems as a unit and in the interest of the majority of workers. For us, acceleration of scientific-technical progress is one of the decisive tasks because we link it with the increase in social and job security. For us, improving the working and living conditions of workers is an essential goal of efficiency measures. For us, scientific-technical progress and the further organization of social relations, as well as the development of socialist democracy, form a solid unit. For us, economic growth is simultaneously linked closely with protection of the environment and securing an ecological balance between nature and society.

From this connection between the scientific-technical revolution and social progress in particular results the attitude of our society toward scientific-technical progress. From this in particular spring the great driving forces which socialism is able to engender. (Footnote 29) (O. Reinhold, "Probleme der Gestaltung der entwickelten sozialistischen Gesellschaft in der verschärften Systemauseinandersetzung" [Problems of organization of the developed socialist society in the intensified confrontation of systems], in "Probleme der Systemauseinandersetzung zwischen Sozialismus und Imperialismus," op. cit., p 18 f.)

It is these new driving forces that bourgeois criticism of socialism denies, distorts, or attacks in some other form in an unhistorical manner

(Footnote 30) (See A. Zwass, "Ein Einparteiensystem ist keine Alternative zur Demokratie" A one-party regime is no alternative for democracy , EUROPAEISCHE RUNDSCHAU, Vienna, Vol 3/1982, p 107 ff.), because they manifest socio-economic superiority with regard to scientific-technical progress for the good of the people. Ultimately, the bourgeois positions are characterized by their basic anticommunist orientation. (Footnote 31) (See H. Koenig, "Die sowjetische Aussenpolitik in der Mitte der 80er Jahre. Bericht ueber die erweiterte Redaktionskonferenz 1985" [Soviet foreign policy in the mid-1980's. Report on the expanded editors' conference 1985], in OSTEUROPA, Stuttgart, Vol 10/1985, p 726 ff.) In the systems confrontation between socialism and capitalism, it is their function to detract from historic progress and to develop a vision of the future based on the fundamental structures of the capitalist profit system, which does not indicate socialism as an alternative for society. Today, bourgeois concepts are confronted not only with the dynamic development of socialist countries, but in view of the intensifying crises and phenomena of instability in the developed capitalist industrial countries, they also serve to distract from the process of decline of the capitalist system; to conceal the real causes inherent in the system in view of the social effects of scientific-technical progress in capitalism; and to promise a "humanized" capitalism.

In the confrontation of systems, two focal questions become ever more prominent under the conditions of the scientific-technical revolution:

1. Which system of society is better able to utilize the possibilities of scientific-technical progress for the good of the people--particularly for the improvement of working and living conditions, for increasing material prosperity, and for overall personal development?
2. Which system of society can prevent more compellingly the dangers to man and his natural environment caused by scientific-technical progress?

The answer to these questions touches upon the relationship between technical change and social progress, which has a totally different character in the two social systems.

The basic strategic line of bourgeois criticism of socialism today consists in generalizing problems as not being society-specific, and attributing them in an equal manner to socialism; problems such as social shortcomings of capitalism as well as negative social effects of scientific-technical progress, for instance the environmental crisis and other global problems. This thrust against socialism is complemented by new forms of apologetics of the capitalist system and a "pessimistic" assessment of scientific-technical developments under socialism. A basic methodological trait of bourgeois criticism of socialism is demonstrated above all in the close intertwining of the analysis of real processes and phenomena of socialist development with illusionary and speculative elements. Among other things, separating wishful thinking and reality is an important task of Marxist-Leninist critiques of theories.

The change of relative strength in favor of socialism, which is taking place more and more under the influence of rapid development of science and technology, is being explained by bourgeois ideologues--as long as it can no longer be ignored completely--not by the growing strength of socialism (after all, the socialist world system is proven to be the most dynamic economic region of the world), but rather by a weakening of the capitalist system. This weakening is due to the working class, the peace and protest movements and others in opposition, or it can be attributed to structural and institutional factors which are summarized under the concept of "market failure." Wuerzburg sociology professor L. Bossle is of the opinion that "in the competitive race between the social systems in East and West, the protest movement of our time has brought about weakenings in the field of Western performance capability by delaying construction of nuclear power plants and other technical infrastructures, with the applause and approval of emancipatory elitist groups, which has given advantages to the Soviet Union earned by others." (Footnote 32) (L. Bossle, "Von der Zirkulation zur Polarisation der Eliten" [From circulation to polarization of elites], in "Hamburger Jahrbuch fuer Wirtschafts- und Gesellschaftspolitik," Tuebingen 1982, p 192) Similar arguments are advanced by J. Roepke, R. Biskup, H. Arndt, H. Sieber and many other bourgeois economists. (Footnote 33) (See "Widersprueche der Kapitalismuskritik" [Contradictions of the critique of capitalism], Berne, Stuttgart 1976; Hugo Sieber, "Marktwirtschaft im Kreuzfeuer" [Market economy under crossfire], Berne, Stuttgart 1979) It is not a matter of a realistic assessment of growing social conflicts and intensifying contradictions and signs of instability of the capitalist exploitation system, but rather an apologetic assignment of guilt to all those forces wanting to see scientific-technical progress implemented for the good of the people.

Despite considerable economic and scientific-technical potentials of some imperialist industrial countries and their lead in work productivity, the superiority of socialist society becomes ever more evident. With regard to scientific-technical progress, it concerns the following aspects in particular:

1. Scientific-technical progress in socialism is geared to the basic economic law and serves to satisfy ever better the material, intellectual and cultural needs of people, as well as further personal development through a positive change of work content.
2. Scientific-technical progress is in agreement with the basic humanistic interests of people (peace, full employment, appropriate living quarters, provisions for the future, etc.).
3. In the process of scientific-technical progress, the workers under socialism play an active and creative role. They are subjects, not objects of this development.
4. The development of scientific-technical progress in socialism takes place within the framework of social necessities, with the objective of

conserving resources as far as possible and minimizing environmental stress.

Our basically optimistic attitude toward all issues of scientific-technical progress is founded in our knowledge that, under socialist production conditions, all problems can be solved; that social development is based on objective natural laws; that these laws can be recognized and utilized, so that social development can be recognized, predicted and planned, because it is not confronted with antagonistic class interests.

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ARCHITECT'S ASSOCIATION ASSESSES NEW CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

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[Address by Prof Ewald Henn, president of the GDR League of German Architects
at the Ninth League of Architects' Executive Meeting]

[Excerpts] A few weeks after the Eleventh SED Party Congress we may already
perceive the mobilizing effects of this significant event on all spheres of
our life. The congress resolutions have been widely acclaimed in the cities
as well as in the countryside.

The citizens of our country are backing by their best possible achievements
the reaffirmed policy aiming at the prosperity of the people. With all
confidence in the future they help ensure that the tried and tested line of
the main task is successfully pursued in its unity of economic and social
policy.

The situation is in fact just as described by Erich Honecker at the Eleventh
SED Party Congress: "Our common achievements reinforce our conviction that we
may tackle our tasks through 1990 and beyond through the year 2000 with
confidence and resolution and will carry them out successfully."

The broad and optimistic outlook conveyed by the party congress as a whole is
of particular significance for us architects who, by our very profession,
create a piece of the future by everything we do.

After all, architecture may look forward to a secure future wherever a country
boasts a clear outlook, where society pursues great and humanist objectives,
and where man is the focus of all construction tasks.

Our league executive meeting wishes to thank the party of the working class
and its general secretary, comrade Erich Honecker, for this outlook conveyed
by the Eleventh SED Party Congress and so encouraging for architectural
efforts.

At the same time we are well aware that we need peace to achieve all the great
social, economic and cultural objectives anchored in the Eleventh SED Party
Congress resolutions, especially the directive for the 1986-1990 5-Year Plan.

Let us affirm here and now: Our architects' league will do everything in its power to broadcast these peace initiatives among architects the world over. And, wherever our members are at work, they will not hold back from enabling our socialist and peaceful country to weigh in even more heavily in the balance of peace, side by side with the Soviet Union and the other socialist fraternal countries. We, the members of our architects' league, promise to act in accordance with the electoral program of the GDR National Front:

"Whatever the Eleventh SED Party Congress decided--that is the cause for all of us!"

In this spirit we also aim to prepare our Ninth League Congress, convoked for 12 and 13 March 1987.

The targets set for 1990 are ambitious. We are aiming to produce a national income amounting to M1.3 billion; labor productivity, net output and product quality are set to rise significantly in all spheres of the economy in order to further improve the standard of living of our people and realize important social and cultural measures.

The ten new key issues of the economic strategy are mainly directed to even more effectively combine the scientific-technological revolution with the benefits of socialism and by the widespread application of key technologies to safeguard dynamic economic growth by way of comprehensive intensification. The Eleventh SED Party Congress has thus elaborated the main trends of our further advance.

According to the SED CC Politburo and GDR Council of Ministers' resolution on the broad public discussion of the directive to the 5-year plan, it is therefore imperative now "to make comprehensively effective the great intellectual and material potential available to the GDR, the abilities, experiences and creative initiatives of the working people."

We architects also consider this the best approach for the construction industry, all those involved in construction as well as architects to successfully handle the tasks set us already at the Eighth Construction Conference.

Advances and New Experiences in Architecture

At its ninth meeting, the presidium of our socialist professional organization was able on the occasion of the Ninth SED Party Congress and within the framework of the "BdA [League of German Architects] Initiative Eleventh Party Congress" to give an accounting of the accomplishment of the obligations and the performances of architects, in particular the 5,000 members of our league.

In a letter to comrade Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED CC, we were able gladly and proudly to report that the members of the BdA/GDR have recorded excellent achievements at their places of work and within the framework of social labor. At the same time our members have made remarkable advances in architecture in all regions of our country.

In preparation of the Eleventh SED Party Congress, our central specialized groups and committees also have done very good work by their various activities, assessments and proposals.

We would like to once more express our thanks and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the good results of our work.

What have been the events of recent years in our field of action with regard to the socialist development of urban construction and architecture? What have been our advances? What has turned out to be satisfactory? And where have problems arisen, that need to be settled?

Let us first look at the implementation of the housing construction program. In the course of the past 5 years, more than 3 million of our citizens have obtained better housing conditions by virtue of this program. A few years ago it was almost exclusively concerned with new residential sections at the edge of the cities. Upon our turn toward the comprehensive intensification of our national economy, causal connections have arisen with the intensive development of the inner city. As a consequence, housing construction has assumed new features, and inner city housing construction has gained increasing importance in combination with reconstruction, modernization and preservation.

Still, you are bound to remember that neither suitable products nor the appropriate equipment were available at the beginning of the 1980's. It needed a tremendous effort to achieve this significant turn-around in an extremely short delay.

The product range in complex housing construction was rationalized, further developed and supplemented with satisfactory results. Planning and equipment were increasingly better geared to the new challenges.

Buildings and sections are variably organized and adaptable to the great variety of building development in our cities. They wear many different features, many individual imprints. Though it still represents the smaller part of our housing construction, inner city construction has already and positively altered the appearance of many cities. Remember, for example, the inner city of Gera, the old part of northern Rostock, or the Brunos Warte district in Halle. We are therefore quite justified to talk of a definitely new chapter in the work of our architects and to claim that its results are accepted and appreciated by our people who consider them interesting and attractive.

These new expressive values have been more thoroughly examined in the very constructive 1985 architectural analysis prepared under the management of our colleague Alfred Hoffmann. Many of you are familiar with it, so that I need not go into details here.

This fruitful competition for multifaceted and satisfactory solutions is particularly evident in our capital, Berlin. The outstanding independent contributions by Berlin architects and construction combines at Ernst-

Thaelmann Park, the Marx-Engels Forum, the Spittelmarkt, Marchlewski Street and Frankfurt Avenue are joined by excellent contributions from all regions, such as the lay-out of Wilhelm-Pieck Street, Bersarin Place, Frankfurt Avenue, Stralau Avenue or Koepenick.

All these demonstrate in concentrated form the extent of the growth of our combines' capacity and quality, the emergence of flexible equipment from scientific-technological advances and, not least, our architects' commitment to new ideas.

Our fellow architects have devoted great efforts to the creation of comfortable housing in the new residential districts such as Berlin-Marzahn, Leipzig-Gruenau, Dresden-Gorbits and Erfurt-Herrnberg.

At the same time we agree with the opinion expressed generally at the Eleventh SED Party Congress that our achievements are not the last word. This is shown by such progressive examples as Magdeburg-Olvenstedt and the plans for Berlin-Hellersdorf. Their complexity, variety and the careful arrangement of the housing environment down to the last details establishes new yardsticks.

All this backs up the favorable assessment by comrade Minister Junker at the Eighth Construction Conference. He said that our architecture has "gained a great deal of variety and expressive strength" in recent years.

This applies particularly to institutional construction. Buildings such as the Berlin Drama Theater and the Dresden Semper Opera House have attracted attention far beyond our borders. It also applies to the construction and reconstruction of factories that combine the most up-to-date equipment, functional flexibility and favorable working conditions. Examples are the "Rudolf Harlass" Foundry in Karl-Marx-Stadt, the new plant in the Berlin Works for Television Electronics, the Rostock Youth Fashion VEB or new workshops in agriculture. At the same time I am bound to say that it is about time to undertake even more thorough analyses to find out why we are often still unable to organize the working environment at the same high standards. Extraordinarily good results have also been recorded in the preservation of monuments, in interior design and landscaping. Examples are the preservation of the monuments to Bach, Haendel and Schuetz, the diversified and spirited design of local restaurants and stores in Berlin, the landscaping of parks in residential districts and in close-by recreational areas.

It seems to me of fundamental importance that better urban-architectural quality is no longer confined to the major cities. Instead, masterly achievements are also recorded in smaller cities and communities. Wismar, Torgau, Freiberg, Saalfeld, Zwickau, Arnstadt and others may serve as examples.

Such good examples are very important indeed because, as you know, much still remains to be done in many smaller cities. The appearance of many villages has perceptibly improved. This is the result of the fact that local design

conceptions were worked out for the majority of communities. The initiatives of our citizens have thereby been directed purposefully to a well ordered and attractive local appearance.

Members of our league have actively pushed for such initiatives.

Therefore, contemplating the total account of our architectural efforts in the period between the Tenth and Eleventh SED Party Congresses, we are justified in claiming that the architects of our country have made an independent and appreciated contribution to the realization of the sociopolitical and economic objectives of our national and socialist culture.

How was it possible for the GDR to offer so much interesting architectural features in such a relatively brief time, for our architecture to achieve a respectable placing in the broad stream of world architecture as demonstrated by the award of prizes at the architectural biennale in Sofia?

It seems to me that we might begin by mentioning five generally valid experiences to be fully utilized when tackling our new tasks:

1. Our "principles for the socialist development of urban construction and architecture in the GDR" represent a far sighted architectural conception, oriented to the challenges of the future. A most decisive asset has been the fact that these principles were backed by the full authority of the SED CC Politburo and the GDR Council of Ministers, so that they increasingly became the guideline for all those responsible for architectural developments in our republic. It will be imperative to continue along the lines indicated by the principles.

In my view we ought to conclude that we must work out even more efficient locality and product concrete conceptual proposals for the further development of urban construction and architecture.

2. In recent years, the People's Chamber, the Council of Ministers and the Ministry for Construction--sometimes with the cooperation of our league--have adopted significant measures and legal regulations directed to the transition to intensive urban development and the encouragement of architectural quality. Examples are the law on local state organs, the building land law, the new legal regulations for complex housing construction, the new competition order, the orders on the employment of complex architects and chief architects as well as on checks on authors. However, many of these excellent rules and regulations still remain to be fully applied in daily practice--indeed, if need be, rigorously enforced. Our league also will have to display greater commitment.

3. It is particularly encouraging that the best achievements in urban construction and architectural work in recent years emerged as the result of architectural competitions or other types of creative rivalry. This happened with regard to the Ernst-Thaelmann Park or the surroundings of the Marx-Engels Forum in Berlin and also many other projects of inner-city construction in the regions. It applies quite specially to the major competition--initiated by

the BdA--for the development of variable building solutions for housing construction. As you know, this provided the foundation stone for most comprehensive design and technological advances.

It appears to us all the more urgent for these experiences to be utilized by all social customers in the interest of greater efficiency and quality, for all important construction projects to be preceded by competitions, studies or variant comparisons and, above all, for competition results to be published by the organizers, because such results always embody a wealth of ideas and experiences far exceeding the individual project.

4. Much that is good has also arisen from increased cooperation among all those involved, beginning with the appropriate assignment and ranging to sound execution. Evidently it is easiest to achieve advances if they are not tackled one-sidedly but embarked upon by the building sciences on a broad front and carried to completion via design and technology to prefabrication, assembly and interior work.

Much encouragement has also been provided whenever social organs, party bezirk and kreis management organizations, people's representations and councils have adopted resolutions embodying bold challenges to architectural quality. Procedures include the adoption of regional "basic outlines for the development of urban construction and architecture," working meetings or the organization of competitions.

5. Finally we may claim that the efforts of our members, especially within the framework of the "BdA Initiative Eleventh SED Party Congress," have creatively contributed to the greater variety and expressive strength of our architecture. Good experiences were shared more rapidly. Workshops helped the general implementation of good constructive and critical ideas. Drafting seminars allowed us to choose the best from the good, set more advanced criteria and, above all, offered opportunities to our younger members to demonstrate their abilities. Closer relations with citizens were developed in many cities and communities by support for the activism of residents as well as by exhibitions and discussions. We should use our experiences to draw the main conclusion that the BdA is most effective wherever the specialized responsibility and creative abilities of our members are used for the accomplishment of concrete tasks.

New Tasks Involved in the Reallization of the Eleventh SED Party Congress Resolutions and in Preparation for the Ninth BdA Congress

Encouraged by our own experiences and successes, we are now--following the Eleventh SED Congress--turning toward the future and the objectives involved in the organization of the developed socialist society.

The construction industry will be confronted with challenging but wonderful tasks in the years to come.

Key points are:

- The reliable completion of construction tasks to strengthen the material-technological base of our national economy.
- The consistent realization of the housing construction program in the unity of new construction, reconstruction, modernization and preservation as well as
- The further shaping of Berlin, our capital, by the strength of the republic as a whole and the "FDJ Berlin Initiative."

To achieve all this and keeping in mind the above average rise in building repairs, it will be necessary to raise construction output as a whole by 16-18 percent. The output of industrial construction is to rise by 20 percent in order to implement as planned important investments in power plant construction, further processing chemistry, metallurgy, vehicle construction, microelectronics, the consumer goods program and integration projects in the USSR.

The housing construction program envisages the construction or modernization of more than 1 million housing units so as to settle the housing problem by 1990, and in this context we will even more emphasize inner-city construction. In the next 5 years, 164,000 housing units are to be constructed or modernized in Berlin, our capital, that particularly exemplifies the successes and achievements of our society.

The accomplishment of these tasks calls not only for the dynamic development of output and efficiency, it also requires us to struggle for all-round good quality. As comrade Minister Junker stated at the Eleventh SED Party Congress, it is imperative for the construction industry "to fight for speeding up scientific-technological progress coupled with growing economic efficacy."

For us architects it is particularly important by the thorough and intensive preparation of all construction measures to create the best possible prerequisites for the advanced efficiency and quality of construction coupled with the stricter observance of cost norms. With regard to all our tasks it is crucially necessary to achieve the best possible cost/profit ratio, to develop new reserves for lowering construction costs and cut construction delays. Our efforts for good urban architectural design must always include responsible economic thinking. That holds true for all spheres of the architect's work, for industrial and agricultural construction, for housing and institutional construction as well as for urban planning.

On the Tasks of Housing Construction

The Eleventh SED Party Congress unequivocally reaffirmed that we are going to continue resolutely to implement the housing construction program with the aim of settling the housing issue as a social problem by 1990. Based on the concrete tasks listed in the directive to the 5-year plan, it will now be necessary in each district and kreis to concentrate the extensive resources

and forces again planned for housing construction on those regional key points where the housing conditions of residents need to and can achieve most improvement. Our members will endeavor specially to make more and more broadly effective the progress accomplished in inner-city construction, in particular the preservation and modernization of the existing residential building stock in conjunction with new construction.

In close cooperation with the local state organs, we are guided by the need to achieve appropriate and inexpensive urban-architectural design by the harmonious combination of new and old buildings and thereby further embellish the appearance of our cities. While resolutely pursuing the housing construction program, complexity must be further improved by the scheduled completion of housing units and social facilities. We must assign the same importance as to housing construction to the construction of communal facilities for social and cultural welfare, services and gastronomic facilities.

We need solutions that effectively combine social quality with economic efficiency.

An example may serve to illustrate this: Our Berlin member Dr Eisentraut and his collective received a commission for designing a major retail and service facility for a residential district. The customer wished to house two of the customary supermarkets side by side. Eisentraut, however, designed a two-storey structure. It looked much better, offered an interesting arrangement and rational function and also brought about the following economic benefits: While the quality was clearly better, 12 percent of investment costs were saved. Heating costs dropped by 55 percent. The building land not used was diverted to the construction of 110 apartments without the need for additional site development costs. If the latter saving is taken into account, total savings amount to 25 percent of construction costs. We should add that the architect had to overcome considerable resistance to his plans. His design was rewarded--deservedly--with the first prize in the 1985 architectural competition.

We are primarily concerned with the more attractive design and furnishing of the complex residential centers. At the same time we are also interested in the creation of pedestrian malls in residential areas and support for citizen initiatives handling the appointments of small community facilities in residential groups and building communities.

We are all aware that the attractive design of the immediate environment is part and parcel of the improvement of housing values in old and new districts. Residents may be far more than hitherto affected by means of well designed outdoor space and landscaping, sculptures related to the architecture, color and visual communications well coordinated with the basic architectural conception. The members of our league have a wide field for diverse action and, in close cooperation with local organs and residents, may more and more effectively mold residential districts, heighten their attractions to such an extent as to further deepen the well-being of our citizens, their love of home and affection for the socialist fatherland.

Our members are particularly concerned to more rationally use the existing building stock. Whether in the old parts of large, medium and small cities or in villages--the restoration of the building stock contributes to the improvement of living conditions and the comprehensive organization of the environment.

Our district and kreis groups bear a great deal of responsibility with regard to support for the preparation of regional development conceptions. On this basis the kreis managed construction industry will be able to further speed up and expand modernization and building repairs. Our groups may also help in the achievement of better quality by the comprehensive application of scientific-technological perceptions and the development of local reserves.

The industrialization of construction will continue to be resolutely pursued in order to improve labor productivity and lower production consumption. Architectural advances have always been intimately linked with the progressive development of the productive forces. That is why it is so important for us architects in the process of the scientific-technological revolution to develop greater opportunities for progressive architectural design, appropriate to our society.

We must create flexible building solutions for industrial housing construction, that will take more account of the functional and design interests of inner-city construction, coupled with the strict observance of cost normatives.

Many recent examples have shown that we are able increasingly well from urban-architectural and technical-technological aspects to cope with inner-city construction and its different needs. However, in many cases costs are still inadmissibly high. The rise in the volume of inner-city building to 50-60 percent of complex housing construction in 1986-1990 compels us to struggle for greater economic efficiency on every site and each building.

The 50th Plenary Meeting of the Construction Academy stressed the enormous differences in the construction price prevailing in various inner cities. It is therefore up to us in the league to be more concerned with the careful handling of social resources.

Our colleagues working in research and development at the GDR Construction Academy, in the housing construction combines and at colleges must therefore focus on this task. Starting from earlier results and model projects, they are working hard within the framework of the research and development plan on the intensification of the products and processes of housing and institutional construction. This is reflected specially in the state target "inner-city housing construction" that assigns them 75 key tasks.

It is our objective to continue helping to decide the international standard with regard to use value, production consumption, construction times and working hours needed for the new construction, modernization and reconstruction of a housing unit as well as for the thermal energy needed for space heating. The results of the state target are directed to the intensive utilization of the existing building stock and building land, the necessary

reconstruction and expansion of the technical infrastructure as well as to the embellishment of the appearance of our cities. At the same time it will be necessary to provide the prerequisites for guaranteeing the development of output and efficiency in housing and institutional construction for the period following 1990.

In his report to the Eleventh SED Party Congress, Comrade Erich Honecker said: "Once we have solved the housing problem by 1990 as the core piece of our sociopolitical program, social housing construction will still be encouraged and the improvement of housing standards increasingly come to the fore."

That is a great challenge to us architects, and we will tackle it with all creative energy.

New and far seeing ideas are needed to further improve housing standards with the aim of responding to the requirements of the developed socialist society and effectively promote the socialist lifestyle.

Our members engaged in R&D are therefore challenged to work for progressive solutions and top performances in the development of products and processes that can be used by the construction industry with the greatest possible economic efficiency.

We, the league--in close cooperation with the Ministry for Construction and the GDR Construction Academy--should prepare a competition "for the development of housing construction after 1990" so as to create the intellectual advance required in time for our Ninth League Congress.

By these means we will be able to stimulate the working out of functional, technical, technological and design bases for housing and institutional construction within the framework of advance research.

At the same time these suggestions should draw increasing public attention and alert citizen initiatives to the great variety of tasks involved in the further development of housing standards.

On the Future Tasks Involved in the Shaping of Berlin, the GDR Capital

In accordance with the Eleventh SED Party Congress resolutions, Berlin, the GDR capital, will continue to be shaped as planned as the political, economic and intellectual-cultural center of the GDR. It is the declared objective of the party of the working class for the successes and achievements of the developed socialist society to be persuasively reflected especially in the capital. The emphasis is on the implementation of the housing construction program by 1990, the completion of the city center, the reinforcement of the material-technical basis by making Berlin the center of microelectronics, as well as the reconstruction and expansion of traffic facilities and urban engineering.

All these tasks represent a great challenge to architecture, to the political commitment and creative ability of the architects of our republic involved therein. The services of our architects will help make the 750th anniversary celebrations of Berlin a significant political demonstration for socialism.

To increase the capital's power of attraction it will be important to bring to bear a wealth of ideas and quickly complete the work on such significant central locations as the Friedrichstrasse.

By 1990, 117,000 new apartments are to be constructed in Berlin, including 38,000-40,000 in existing urban districts. This means by and large the completion of work in the inner city with the Central, Prenzlauer Berg and Friedrichshain city districts, of the construction of the large-scale new residential districts in Berlin-Marzahn, Berlin-Hohenschönhausen and Berlin-Hellersdorf. At the same time we will tackle another major residential location in Old Glienicke, southeast of Berlin.

As regards the future urban layout of Berlin, in particular the settlement of the housing problem, even greater attention will be devoted to socially efficient construction and the improvement of housing standards. We aim at the virtual abolition by 1990 of the social differences in housing conditions, that arose as the result of historic factors. By that time, 99 percent of all apartments will have inside toilets and baths or showers.

Inner-city development must be oriented to the preservation of everything valuable from the urban and architectural standpoint, to raising its regional efficacy by purposeful measures and overcoming the negative legacies of capitalist construction for profit. The complex layout of squares and quarters as well as of entire streets will be even more emphasized. Greifswalder Strasse is a current example.

Large residential districts will arise in Berlin in future also. It is therefore necessary to devote the proper attention to the further development of complex housing construction. Many recent experiences gained in inner-city housing construction should be applicable to the design of new residential districts, too. This holds true, for the simultaneous creation of communal facilities and housing construction, for better supplies by means of small shopping streets in pedestrian malls and a more diversified courtyard design that will encourage the communal life of the residents and also be child-friendly.

Our league has always had construction in the capital city at heart. In future also it should use its influence to make sure that urban construction and architecture all over Berlin are exemplary. In coordination with the chief architects we, in our capacity as a specialized association, wish to act as godparents for important projects and will endeavor to establish long-range consultative cooperation. It is therefore intended to more intensively organize collaboration between the office of the presidium and the Berlin Bezirk executive board.

We will continue to resolutely pursue the object concrete exchange of experiences among all our members working for the capital. Finally, our league should advocate that complex architects are employed everywhere and by their influence and supervision contribute to the assurance of top quality.

To sum up: We will joyfully and enthusiastically strive to see that the architectural appearance of Berlin may radiate the spirit of a vital socialist world capital.

Tasks Involved in Industrial Construction

The Eleventh SED Party Congress resolutions emphasize the goals of industrial construction as primary construction tasks and essential prerequisites for the reinforcement of the material-technical base of our national economy.

The construction industry is handling substantial construction measures in industry and thus provides an essential contribution to the assurance of the steady growth of output in our economy. It is crucial in particular by thorough preparation and concentrated execution to realize the planned construction measures as per schedule and at top quality.

The planning, preparation and execution of the "Barkas Works" industrial project in Karl-Marx-Stadt offers a progressive example, worthy of imitation. Members of our league were deeply involved in it.

The collective cooperation in planning and construction realization between the staff of the BMK [construction and assembly combine] South VEB, the investment customer and the collectives of other participating enterprises facilitated the achievement of remarkable successes.

Variant comparisons in the planning and preparatory phases made it possible to work out the most favorable measures for reconstruction and new construction, coupled with the most intensive utilization of the existing building stock.

The use of computer backed planning and rationalization in the preparatory and implementation phases allowed construction costs to be lowered by 20 percent with respect to reconstruction and expansion projects and construction time to be cut by 25 percent.

This example set new standards of speed and quality. Its utilization for the achievement of similar satisfactory economic results with respect to other projects requires the substantial improvement of management and planning as well as of the efficiency of the preparation and implementation in construction and assembly combines.

We will carefully evaluate the experiences gained with particular reference to the work of our central specialized group "industrial construction."

Another urgent task results from the need for comprehensive investment preparation on the basis of long-range conceptual plans.

Here also it is imperative to apply such progressive experiences as those gained in the case of the "Grossraeschen-East industrial area" by the staff of the Coal and Energy VEB, research and planning KB, Cottbus, on the occasion of the relocation of several industrial and warehousing enterprises. In the result of fixed asset management studies, they produced an optimum area layout, leading to a 20-30 percent reduction in the initially planned factory area.

The conclusion necessarily arises that the capacities of industrial construction planning must place greater emphasis on cooperation with the regional planning organs.

We are convinced that, upon confirmation, the order (available as a draft since February 1986) on the regulation of the duty of the BMK's industrial planning to cooperate in fixed asset management studies will encourage the all-round cooperation of the offices for regional and urban planning, the investment customers and the respective combines of industry and construction, complete with the inclusion of complex design conceptions.

In future also product quality in industrial construction will have a high place value.

In accordance with the party congress resolutions, the forthcoming (November 1986) seminar of the ZFG [central specialized group] "industrial construction" aims to indicate approaches and measures with regard to the improvement of the functional and design quality of a material and energy effective component assortment and product offer in flexible combinations of assembly construction systems and monolithic processes.

We are considering all this in the context of the task to further improve the working and living conditions of the working people--a task much emphasized at the Eleventh SED Party Congress.

It is more important than ever to provide the best and most inclusive possible working environment with every rationalization and reconstruction measure as well as the new construction of work places.

A good orientation is offered by the Council of Ministers' resolution "on the further development of the working environment in the GDR." Our central specialized group "industrial construction" collaborated in the preparation of this resolution.

To even more encourage the broadly effective realization of this resolution, we propose in industrial construction also to set the superordinated responsibility of architects for complex design above the various specialized planners and apply the satisfactory experiences gained by the employment of complex architects to the organization of the working environment. I am sure we all agree that we will in future have to do even more for the development of industrial architecture and the complex organization of the working environment. People spend much of their time at work, and the profits achieved in production help, among others, to provide opportunities for

impressive architecture. Just because of that, the surroundings offered by the work places of material production require embellishment and visual attraction so as to encourage the working people's willingness to perform.

Moreover, suitable and sound architectural design and quality in industrial construction also represent a foreign trade factor that should not be underestimated.

Let me stress once again that good industrial construction remains a major task for architects.

On Tasks of Long-Term City and Community Development

The Eighth Construction Conference and more particularly the Eleventh SED Party Congress pointed out that it is necessary for the plans for the location of complex housing construction and the social and technical infrastructure in our cities and communities to look forward to the year 2000. In this connection great importance lies with the continued pursuit and more precise definition of the cities' general building plans in 1986-1990 and their more emphatic orientation to intensive city development. The Ministry for Construction, the State Planning Commission and the GDR Construction Academy are preparing the targets and will publish them shortly.

It is intended:

- In a basic instruction for the general building plans of our cities in 1986-1990 to determine the subject matter, main direction and course of work on the general building plans, and
- By an order to settle the preparation and mandatory force of the general building plans as well as the working out of central state targets and orientations on the development of the cities.

The creative and specific translation into realistic planning documents for the various cities will offer great challenges to the offices of city architects or the district offices for urban planning and local councils.

Our league should see to it that this work is prepared and carried out thoroughly, with a great sense of responsibility and using a broad exchange of experiences among all cities. From this aspect, too, model urban plans for various city districts will be increasingly important with respect to the connection between long-range urban planning on the one hand and investment preparation on the other. It will be imperative in future to devote far more attention to the rational organization of relations in the cities between work, residence, social supplies and recreation. Urban planning must make an effective contribution to the optimum organization of the city as a whole and its districts.

In this context, the inclusion of inner-city work places and their many interlinks in the planned reproduction process of the cities is gaining increasing importance. The more than 200 combines in the GDR have roughly

5,000 enterprises and some 36,000 production shops in the cities. As many as 25 percent of their gross surface areas are located in urban residential and mixed districts.

We must therefore in the process of transforming our cities guarantee the best possible development of output and efficiency in the combines and enterprises, coupled with the assurance of satisfactory working and living conditions. We can do so by changing the kind of use of sites and fixed assets, exchanging and merging enterprise parts and by other measures of reconstruction and regional rationalization.

To settle these problems, "the principles on the urban planning of work places of productive sectors in inner-city districts" are being worked out as a state plan target. Our members everywhere will fully assist the day-to-day application of these principles.

The party congress also very clearly indicated the prospects for our villages and small rural towns.

It is our aim to make full use of the village specific conditions for intensive communal life, the inclusion of the natural environment and agricultural and horticultural part-time production. Making available village appropriate housing will enable us in future also to keep young people settled in the villages.

By 1990, rural construction firms and citizens are to build and modernize 80,000 housing units in rural areas. New construction will largely proceed in the form of one and two-storey buildings, because this best responds to the needs of village life and facilitates the best possible fit with the appearance of the village and the surrounding landscape. In the case of private home construction, we are aiming at the increased use of rational building types such as two-family houses and, especially, row houses.

In the coming years we are faced with enormous tasks related to the reconstruction of agricultural production plants and buildings. Rational methods need to be developed for repair and maintenance, and these methods must also be suitable for use while production proceeds.

Our earlier work on local design conceptions has been much appreciated. In fact, the committed efforts of many of our members resulted in some remarkable achievements with regard to the gradual and planned improvement of the layout of our villages and rural communities.

It will now be necessary to gradually translate into action the design conceptions at hand. The members of our league will be actively involved in these efforts, too.

Starting from earlier best experiences, we consider it imperative in future even more emphatically to include aspects of good and complex building design in the preparation of decisions regarding investments and initiative measures. It will therefore be necessary to further improve the design and architectural knowledge of Kreis architects, voluntary workers in the State Construction

Supervision, management cadres of agricultural enterprises and students of agricultural specialties. We consider this a responsible task for the architects of the ZFG "rural construction" and the district groups of architects.

Intensification of our cooperation with the National Council of the National Front and the Peasants' Mutual Aid Association as well as other social bodies will make it possible to even more effectively back up the broad public movement for more attractive villages and appropriate buildings.

New Challenges to Planning Involved in Widespread Use of CAD/CAM Equipment

In preparation of the Eleventh SED Party Congress, many initiatives were directed to the development and initial introduction of CAD/CAM measures for the planning of industrial construction, underground construction, housing construction and the modernization of the housing stock. It will now be essential for architects to assume an even more active role in this process and help make the new working methods widely applicable.

The clear conception for the construction industry envisages the provision of 1,200 CAD work stations in the coming years. Based on earlier experiences, the development of construction planning will therefore be increasingly decided by the growing use of computer equipment. The importance of graphic data processing and the planner/computer dialogue is therefore bound to rise.

In this process of the reorganization of planning technology, it is the task of architects to contribute their specific requirements and problems rather than leave future developments to the EDP specialists alone. Instead they should together utilize the opportunities arising.

The Eighth Construction Conference already supplied the basic orientation: The use of microelectronics, computer and robot equipment for planning and technology allows more and more scope to the design diversity and flexibility of products coupled with rational production and optimum profitability. It is extremely important to appreciate that computer equipment as a new tool revolutionizes our work in every respect. That holds true for general building plans as well as for urban construction preparation, for construction technical planning and construction preparation and the control of the actual construction as well as for interior decoration and landscape architecture. All of them are enabled to improve their quality and efficiency.

A new approach is needed due to the call for the greater flexibility of building design in housing construction and for the increased use of industrial construction methods in the inner city. The housing construction combines developed a method of building block planning for this purpose. It is based on the systematic breakdown of developed building assortments to reproducible building measures and serves as the base for the development of a CAD solution for the planning of residential buildings by slab construction. We have to hand mature program systems that demonstrably result in more efficient planning of residential buildings and social facilities. They need to be integrated in a modular and expandable CAD system.

This involves a great challenge to the interdisciplinary work of our central specialized groups, in particular the central committee on planning.

They must familiarize themselves with the new working methods and the new equipment and, in their creative use, ensure that these resources are employed to equally and in the interest of the people serve the management of construction, the quality of architecture and the socio-cultural efficacy of the constructed environment.

The ZFG "industrial construction" intends to study the example offered by the Rostock Industrial and Port Construction VEB and other construction combines with regard to the uses of computer backed work places and help generalize them for draft processing in particular.

Our district and kreis groups and, in particular, our enterprise groups in the construction combines need to devote greater attention to the development and use of computer equipment in order to help the rapid and widespread breakthrough of the new production methods.

We therefore propose that, in preparation of its Ninth League Congress and in close cooperation with the state organs, our league participates in the organization of a total CAD/CAM example involving urban planning and investment preparation, planning, prefabrication and final construction in Neubrandenburg Bezirk and develops a lively exchange of experiences in this connection.

Consequences Arising from New Challenges to Education and Continued Education

In connection with the growing tasks of science and the ongoing development of intellectual-cultural life, the Eleventh SED Party Congress discussions and resolutions directed attention to the further perfection of education and continued education. Backed by our earlier achievements, new and far reaching conclusions and impulses arise therefrom for our profession, the present and future field of action of architects and urban planners.

As the "principles" stress, "our age needs architects who are profoundly rooted in the life of our socialist society and whose entire personality is committed to social progress."

To be able to successfully operate as an architect in this meaning requires a high educational standard, creative spirit and artistic mastery. In order to arrive at the best architectural design, this should be combined with the ability to appreciate the many social, functional, economic and esthetic demands of society with regard to new and modernized buildings and complexes.

Building upon the "principles" resolved upon by the SED CC Politburo and the GDR Council of Ministers, in accordance with the "conception for the organization of the education and continuing education of GDR engineers and economists, and with the active cooperation of our professional league, a draft of the specific requirements on the college education, college research and continuing education in the field of urban planning and architecture has been worked out in recent years. At the same time this draft has put on the

agenda long-range and fundamental objectives of our profession that is so rich in traditions and, in the widest sense, the prospects of urban planning and architecture in our socialist society.

In response to the practical requirements, there will be three specialties within the basic study of urban planning and architecture--in accordance with the conceptions to hand: Urban planning, architecture and landscape architecture.

Scientific-technological progress calls on us to place the same value on constantly continuing education as on education proper. Our professional association therefore basically backs the proposal to build up a long-range system of obligatory postgraduate continuing education for architects and to conclude the respective specialized courses by the award of a certificate. The future system of continuing education will have to be flexible and respond to new social needs as they emerge. Short term courses are to be preferred because they are most likely to ensure the rational and rapid spread of the latest perceptions of science and day-to-day practice. Tried and tested methods of continuing education will be retained. Growing importance will be assumed in particular by the events organized in Bauhaus Dessau, drafting seminars and colloquiums as well as the expansion of postgraduate studies at our colleges.

Our professional association has important responsibilities with respect to this process. Our many continuing education measures largely contribute to the improvement of the efficiency and quality of urban planning and architecture. We will endeavor in the field of the continuing education of architects, too, to creatively utilize the experiences of our fraternal associations, in particular the USSR federation of architects.

Consonant with the recommendation by the Minister for University and Technical School Affairs, we propose using the time until our Ninth League Congress to widely and publicly discuss in our association the draft "conception on the development of education and further education in the field of urban planning and architecture, submit it to the congress as working material and, subsequently, submit it to the competent state agencies for confirmation.

Key Tasks of GDR League of Architects Following Ninth SED Party Congress

In the coming months we will intensively prepare for the Ninth League Congress. It will be held entirely in the sign of the realization of the Eleventh SED Party Congress resolutions and the long-range tasks in the field of urban planning and architecture in our country. It is our main concern to conduct a thorough debate about the further speed-up of architectural advances in the conditions of comprehensive intensification.

It is more than ever important to strengthen the readiness to perform of all members of our association, their knowledge, professional capacity and openness to new ideas. The committed advocacy of social and scientific-technological progress, the implementation of the economic strategy and the achievement of the greatest possible architectural-artistic quality reflect the modern architect's revolutionary thought and action.

The effectiveness of our professional association also largely depends on our success in inspiring all our members to be conscious upholders of social efforts effective for the general public. The Eleventh SED Party Congress emphasized that considerable output growth in the construction industry is expected especially in the kreises.

Almost half our membership is engaged precisely in the locally managed construction industry and sees in this the most efficient form of relevant social action, able to significantly help the embellishment of the urban planning-architectural appearance of our cities and villages.

Arising therefrom for the league is the obligation to offer even more help and guidance to existing kreis groups and even before the next BdA Congress to set up such groups where they are still lacking. Sometimes it may be advisable in kreises counting few active architects to have the latter join existing kreis groups. We should also endeavor to ensure that qualified city or kreis architects are employed by all important cities and kreises that do not yet have them.

The league is preparing proposals for the establishment and operation of BdA social planning collectives to help local councils in the preparation of measures relating to the preservation, modernization and reconstruction of small investment projects and residential buildings.

Following the precepts of the Eleventh SED Party Congress and looking toward the forthcoming elections in enterprise and kreis groups, the district delegate conferences and our Ninth League Congress, we need to precisely define the tasks of the league organs, review and increasingly base operational plans on further concrete efforts.

Following the election meetings, it will be necessary to make concrete provisions for the implementation of the party congress resolutions in the respective fields. Our elections should primarily be used to recruit new members, to activate and further develop social life in the organs of the league.

Proceeding from earlier experiences, we should concentrate our efforts even more on creative working methods and forms of continuing education, such as drafting seminars, competitions, workshop discussions and reviews of studies as well as on discussions about architecture and exchanges of experiences. We should increasingly encourage interdisciplinary work, activate our publicity efforts and more intensely involve young members in our work. Problems related to the stabilization of managements and their collectivity must also come to the fore in the course of the preparations for the league elections.

We have learned from experience that the best results are achieved if the objectives are clearly stated, cooperation with state and social forces proceeds at a high level under the leadership of the party of the working class, and if managements and managers are truly committed.

The new tasks and operations of the league will be reflected in the revised version of our statute that we will submit for confirmation to the Ninth Congress after thorough discussion.

In conformity with the efforts of GDR foreign policy and in close cooperation with the fraternal associations in socialist countries, our league has recently inspired important initiatives with the slogan "architects for peace."

At the regional congress in Nicosia and at the 1985 UIA general assembly in Cairo, the peace declarations prepared by the GDR delegation met with the full assent of the assembled delegates. These initiatives are designed at the next (1987) congress in Brighton to express with even greater emphasis the architects' call for measures to preserve peace and for worldwide disarmament. The Fourth International Bauhaus Colloquium, too, will be combined with a demonstration for peace.

Aided by the clear orientation supplied by the Eleventh SED Party Congress, we are therefore setting our face toward the new and challenging tasks for the welfare of our people. We and all members of the GDR League of Architects will work for this objective, filled with optimism and a deep sense of responsibility. Architects are giving their best by party-like behavior, creativity and the greatest possible professional ability. At the side of the party of the working class and its loyal companion, our league of architects supplies an energetic contribution to the strengthening of our republic, the preservation of peace and a joyful future.

11698

CSO: 2300/564

MARKET RESEARCH CONDUCTED, CONSUMER PRICE INCREASES PLANNED

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 18 Mar 86

[Unattributed article: "GDR Should Advertise its Products; Wishes of FRG Buyers, Price Increases Planned, Far East as Most Important Competitor"]

[Text] While for the GDR, sales problems in the FRG show an increasing tendency, West Germany manufacturers expect orders for machines and machine tools above all because of the planned modernization push. Last year the GDR sold many textiles in the FRG, which came as a surprise to many observers. The GDR increased its orders of medium and higher-priced clothing from DM 22.4 to DM 115.3 million.

The GDR should carry out more market research in the FRG and also advertise its products. This was proposed in Leipzig by Herbert Bittlinger, chairman of the task force for trade with the GDR and member of the board of directors of Quelle [a large department and catalogue store].

According to Bittlinger, the enterprises in the GDR have no feeling for market conditions and therefore react only very slowly to customer demands. For example, the GDR needed ten more years than other manufacturers for the establishment of a quartz watch production. The GDR, to be sure, was able to increase its deliveries to the GDR, especially in 1984, but only because the high rate of the dollar and strong American demand had made goods from southeast Asia very expensive.

The Far East, according to Bittlinger, is the major competitor for the GDR in the FRG. As from there, there also comes from East Germany "above all standard goods of the lower and mid-range price categories"--consisting in the consumer sector of 77 percent textiles. Most buyers--who also now visit the Leipzig spring fair--are expecting a decline in orders, because the low exchange rate of the dollar is favorably affecting manufacturers in southeast Asia. In addition, Bittlinger pointed out that the GDR is attempting to raise its prices. It intends to compensate for price declines in raw materials (petroleum products and chemical products) by price increases in consumer goods.

The GDR remains after Italy and Hong Kong the third largest supplier for the department stores and mail-order houses of the FRG. It accounts for 12

percent of total imports in retail trade. But even in 1985, deliveries of textiles fell by 3 percent and of other consumer goods by 5 percent. For the current year, 74 percent of the members of the task force anticipate a stagnant or declining business, only 22 percent expect higher sales figures. "A significant increase in orders is only possible in the long run," according to Bittlinger, "when attention to quality continues to increase in the GDR and capacity is expanded." It can be observed that enterprises in the GDR find it very difficult to react to market changes in fashion, technology and equipment. The sales opportunities are additionally restricted by a lack of quality-oriented demand in the domestic market and by delivery obligations to technologically also less demanding CEMA states, with regard to which the GDR additionally has to constantly justify its trade with the West.

The political framework conditions for an expansion of trade between the two German states are good, Bittlinger says. The existing contingencies in the FRG for purchases from East Germany affect just one percent of manufactured products. Now the GDR must push ahead with the "much cited modernization and innovation for the next five year plan." Many buyers complain that delivery bottlenecks, quality problems, delivery dates and prices are still hampering trade negotiations.

12792

CSO: 2300/563

FRG PRESS CLAIMS OF FOOD CONTAMINATION DISPUTED

Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 15 Aug 86 p 2

[Article by (T.B): More Losses for Exporters of Food to the FRG: Campaign in Gutter Press Continues: Who Doesn't Like Polish Venison; An Attempt to Scare Customers"]

[Text] (Own information) As we already pointed out in RZECZPOSPOLITA, a campaign aimed against imports of food from Poland is continuing in the gutter press of the FRG. All kinds of pseudoexperts claim that that food is radioactively contaminated owing to the breakdown of the atomic reactor in Chernobyl. This is happening despite the fact that all shipments for export are tested in this country and subsequently, in accordance with EEC regulations, in the importing country.

As declared to this correspondent by the General Director of ANIMEX Zdzislaw Brylski, not one shipment sent to the FRG has been questioned by West German sanitation services from the standpoint of radioactive contamination. Despite this, FRG press is regularly publishing various "revelations" and "warnings." Recently, for example, it published a "warning" against the consumption of venison originating from Poland. As one result, the export prices obtained have fallen 50 percent. Consumers simply fear to buy "unsafe products."

In reality, not one instance of a norm higher than the limit of 600 becquerels per kilogram established by the EEC authorities has been found. Venison (because it is at present an export commodity) displays from 23 to 148 becquerels per kilogram depending on the region of Poland from which it originates. What the press glosses over is that the FRG market admits hares from Argentine whose contamination amounts to 700 becquerels per kilogram as well as venison from South Africa with a contamination level of 900 becquerels. It is interesting to note as well that coffee imported from Brazil has a contamination level of 600-700 becquerels per kilogram, although Argentine, Brazil and the Republic of South Africa are distant from Chernobyl....

It is thus clearly seen that the issue here is not "the consumer's interest" but a deliberate campaign aimed at depriving us of our traditional markets. Much in this connection indicates that behind that campaign stand our

competitors -- in the case of venison, suppliers from Australia and New Zealand, among others.

Director Z. Brylski estimates the overall loss of ANIMEX against the background of the hysteria in West Europe at about US\$30 million. To this should be added the more than 100 million zloty spent on costly radiological tests in this country. Yet, these tests are indispensable, for we must have an absolute certainty that we will not provide any formal pretext for further actions aimed against our exports.

1386

CSO: 2600/685

LUBLIN TRUCK FACTORY FACES CRITICAL LABOR SHORTAGE

Warsa RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 13 Aug 86 pp 3,4

[Article by Ryszard Naleszkiewicz: "Who is To Save Whom?" surtitled "On the Eve of Bankruptcy"]

[Text] "Unless within the next few days the workforce is informed that its pay will increase markedly (by 3,000-3,500 zloty [monthly]), the cessation of production at the factory... and the attendant collapse of production throughout the automotive industry of this country will be unavoidable."

This is just one passage from the dramatic letter by the General Director of the Lublin Truck Factory Engineer Andrzej Malinowski and the First Secretary of the PZPR Factory Committee Jan Skomorowski to First Secretary of the Lublin Voivodship PZPR Committee Andrzej Szpringer. Secretary Szpringer is perfectly familiar with the situation of this factory, which is the largest plant in the Lublin region, and he himself is a member of the basic party organization at the foundry department, but what can he do? After all he cannot drag the employees to work against their will, and the yet plant's agony has long been known and can be seen from afar.

A Potentate

The days of glory of the FSC (Truck Factory in Lublin), days when it was being put into operation with Soviet aid and Soviet licenses, when the reconstruction of Polish cities hinged on the rate of its production, now belong in the past. At present, owing to cooperation with Soviet comrades, there is arising a remote possibility of salvation, namely, the production of a joint Polish-Soviet modern 3-ton delivery van. But will the plant survive till then? Will its workforce still remain, or at least a part of that glorious longtime workforce whose professionalism had always been admirable and which nowadays everyone who can is recruiting away?

The factory is a potentate; it has monopoly over its products within our automotive industry. No one else can replace it in the production of automotive wheels for all kinds of forgings -- forged parts for the FSO (Passenger Car Factory) and for the Jeletz and Sanok plants. It alone in Poland manufactures spring suspensions and all kinds of springs. Those unfortunate Zhuks [vehicles] for which we all know it have long ceased to be

its symbol and are rather an expression of ambition -- the ambition to manufacture an entire vehicle, in accordance with the factory's name. And the factory's personnel are right in saying that if it ceases production then our automotive industry will come to a standstill. This industry is already in serious trouble, because it is no longer receiving adequate quantities of supplies from the FSC. The shipments of forgings have declined 10.4 percent; wheels, 8.8 percent; and axles alone, 12.4 percent. For the last few months other producers survived only by depleting their inventories, but now they are depleted and the wailing is beginning. What now?

They Quit

The mood of the factory's personnel is depressed. At the party committee people are reluctant to talk. They are embittered. What could be said was said at the pre-Congress factory conference early in April, which was attended by Deputy Minister Bryk, who could not promise anything. Deputy Speaker of the Sejm M. F. Rakowski also came, but his address elicited controversy. Apparently no one answered the workforce's question, 'what now?'

First Secretary of the Factory PZPR Committee Jan Skomorowski believes, like the others at the factory, that the main problem is the human element, the skilled workers and how to keep them from leaving. This can be achieved only if wages are raised rapidly and almost immediately. The factory itself will not do so, because it is in a tragic situation. It owes 570 million zloty to the PFAZ [Plant Activation Fund], and were it to make this payment, it would be left with only 17 million zloty, or 3.3 percent of last year's amount, so that nothing would be left for pay increases.

At the trade union the mood is that of unrest. They are blaming everything. Their opinion of the new factory director -- appointed last July, by competitive application -- is not the best. The vice chairman of the trade-union board Aleksander Jachowicz says, "He's here so long and still no pay raise! People are waiting and waiting. The previous director, who was thrown out not very justly by the worker council, had during his 2 years at the factory given the workforce about 3,000 zloty monthly in pay raises, while the new one has not yet done anything about it."

The worker council, however, is somewhat more optimistically disposed. Its chairman, Ryszard Pakula, returned yesterday from a meeting with Minister Maciejewicz. He was promised that the payment to the PFAZ would be waived and an 8-percent tax relief on norm-exceeding pay would be provided. The members of the worker council feel so certain about this promise that they already have notified the plant workforce accordingly by using the plant loudspeaker. This upset Director Malinowski. He said to me bitterly, "How is it possible, sir. They make this announcement, and if it doesn't pan out the workforce will hold me responsible."

The facts are not optimistic. In 1981 the FSC employed 11,250 persons. In 1982 the job resignations reached their peak: 1,034 persons left the factory. Followed each year by an additional drain: 211, 173, and 485. By the end of December 1985 only 9,347 persons remained in the workforce. Afterward there was the black April of 1986 when, after food prices were increased, 200

persons had left the factory, and since then 350 more submitted to the personnel department applications for discharge. This is practically the physical death of the factory. That is why the aforementioned dramatic letter was sent. Now the workforce consists of slightly fewer than 8,900 persons. How many will be left after another 3 months?

Plugging the Holes

Director Malinowski resorts to strange expedients, but then the plant's situation at present is also strange. It operates in "half-lines." For the first half of a month an entire department works on the semifinished product, and during the second half everyone finishes what he had started previously. And as for overtime hours, last year they totaled 690,000, which is equal to hiring an additional 398 persons, though at double the cost. More overtime hours cannot be given, because a large part of the workforce commutes to the factory.

Maintenance teams also do not help, because the traffic maintenance crew already is too small: mechanics are the first to leave. Why? Because of wages, wages, and once more wages. Last year the average GUS-calculated [GUS -- Main Statistical Administration] monthly wage at the FSC was 19,365 zloty. This is much below the national average, and even below the voivodship average. After bonuses and overtime are subtracted from this pay, it turns out that the monthly pay for nominal work time at the FSC averages only 16,415 zloty. The management acknowledges that an immediate pay raise of 3,000 zloty monthly will prevent further shrinkage of the workforce, while pay raises of 5,000 zloty for the personnel of forging and casting departments and 7,000 zloty for traffic maintenance personnel will result in increasing employment. They count on outside assistance.

What Can Be Done?

Last year the worker council activated job verification commissions throughout the plant. They were termed "Tiger Brigades" and caused fear among the entire workforce. Work aprons were especially put on some people, their faces were dirtied, and they were placed at workstations in order to determine the suitability of the latter. The brigades singled out 250 jobs for elimination and as many persons for discharge or transfer to other jobs. This affected chiefly white-collar workers. There was a brouhaha and the plant director had to appoint his own combined taskforces to verify these findings. Ultimately, 115 persons were discharged. But the worker council claimed that the wrong people were discharged. The riposte of the management was that the assignment itself of the "Tigers" was of malicious intent, that shockworkers were singled out. The worker council, outraged, claimed that this was not true and that its commissions included shockworkers as well. At the council I was told, by way of an argument, that of its 23 members six are party members and eight trade-union members, so how could they be accused of such a thing?!

And yet, they are busy as a bee: the council takes detailed decisions on social services, names bonus recipients, and allots allowances. Whenever this happens, the trade unionists get apoplectic and write letters, protests, appeals. The council admits that perhaps it tries to do too much, that it may

not make much sense.... The council travels to Warsaw, with the plant director and sometimes without him, and when it travels without him, he becomes upset, because the council is not supposed to represent the plant outside! Later, unverified rumors are spread that the council is trying to stop people from quitting work.

The management offers its arguments: the machinery is decapitalized and 85 percent of it is more than 10 years old, of which an half is more than 20 years old; only 2 percent of the machinery has been in operation for under 5 years; the profits planned for this year also will not cover the factory's additional obligations -- unless these obligations are nullified. Calculations show that the modernization of the FSC requires, in addition to wage decisions, an adjustment of the accounting procedure such that one billion zloty annually could be set aside for streamlining the factory. And altogether the modernization will require 14 billion zloty, but it can be carried out gradually.

The factory's management is awaiting the decision [of the parent agency]. It itself is not doing anything. Director Malinowski has been working here for 32 years, having advanced from foreman to director. He has a strong faith that the matter will be resolved. One thing he is certain of: "I'll not be the gravedigger of this factory; I'll quit first."

The Workers

The casting department is noisy, dust-laden, and dark. Its workers gather round me. They are working, because they are accustomed to their work and know it in and out, but their number is declining. Foreman Janusz Bielecki, reminisces how several years ago the mold core department had employed 290 workers whereas now 175 remain and nearly every mechanic has put in a notice of resignation.

Here, most are women. Jadwiga Gruchola was paid 18,000 zloty for April. Tomasz Kaliszewski was paid 27,000, which includes 24 hours of overtime and a 14-percent seniority allowance, and yet he is a core press operator, and as such an aristocrat among workers. Boguslaw Dawidek, a mold core operator, earned only 16,588 zloty plus an allowance for noxious labor, or altogether 21,576 zloty.

They work because they work, but it is getting more and more difficult for them. On the other side of the fence there is the modern and obviously subsidized casting department of the Ursus [Tractor Plant]. Those who switch to that plant get paid 5,000-7,000 zloty more per month, and so they switch. Yes, they are aware that in a couple of years the FSC will start manufacturing that new Polish-Soviet vehicle. But how many will wait that long?

I thought to myself, what a black picture, and I turned for an explanation to the Ministry of Metallurgy and Machinery Industry. The Director of the Economic Department Engineer Marian Tomal did not look happy when I asked his opinion about the future of the Lublin FSC.

He said, "It's difficult to speak of the future of that plant considering that for the last 3 years we've been concentrating on saving it from total bankruptcy, relieving it of the duty of paying the PFAZ [Plant Activation Fund Tax], and so on. This is no solution, and the responsible people at the factory are more busy with infighting than with constructive actions. To this day no realistic plan for renovating the factory has been prepared. Even if we had granted it 5 billion zloty for investments this year, they couldn't cope with it, because the process of ordering and installing equipment is of a longterm nature.

"We're waiting for a realistic plan, and we're waiting for the people at that factory to wake up. For the time being, the FSC will be once more relieved of the duty of paying the PFAZ, which will enable it to allot half a billion zloty on renovation and to some extent also on wage increases. There's also the decision on the 'ceiling formula,' that is to grant to the FSC an eight-percent ceiling of increase in tax-free wage disbursements. This year, the "Automotive Industry Development Fund," amounting to 10 percent of the price of passenger cars, has also been introduced. The factory's coproducers may benefit from that fund if they reach an agreement with the factories manufacturing the final products.

"Thus, there exist many opportunities, but they largely depend on the effectiveness of action of the management and on the performance of the workforce. If, however, infighting and dissensions don't cease, the government will not desist from drastic solutions: we'll impose a receivership. Bankruptcy of the FSC is unthinkable. We as a state can't either afford to keep on 'saving' the factory forever. It must be renovated, because the automotive industry is supposed to yield a profit to the state."

1386
CSO: 2600/685

SILESIAN ROAD SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION BEGUN

Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 15 Aug 86 p 5

[Article by (mt): "The Dumps Are Disappearing and the Road is Arising" surtitled "Central Highway in Silesia"]

[Text] (Own information) (C) What had not so long ago seemed a mere dream of incorrigible optimists has become a fact. The construction of the Central Highway has begun. To be sure, one must still have an engineer's rich imagination to visualize the future "transportation backbone of Silesia" when viewing the rising construction sites, but all the same, work is under way finally.

The Central Highway is one of the most difficult transportation projects in this country, chiefly owing to the surface damage caused by mines and because it runs across the center of the Upper Silesian Industrial District. It will link Katowice with Gliwice, Zabrze, Ruda Slaska, Swietochlowice, and Chorzow. This 31.3 km long highway will consist of two roadways with three traffic lanes and an emergency stopping lane, with a combined width of 32 m. Access and exit lanes will link it with five national highways and 20 municipalities.

171 Engineering Structures

Consequently, the highway will divert heavy traffic to the interregional and regional system and thus relieve urban and suburban traffic. By the same token, it will make possible the introduction of a proper organization and control of traffic in the principal zone of the Upper Silesian Industrial District, serving as a beginning of an integrated vehicular traffic system in this region.

But to accomplish this it will be not only necessary to build 171 viaducts, bridges, tunnels, crossings, and other engineering structures but also and above all to "disarm" the right-of-way by removing or transferring a large number of teletechnical installations, surface and underground utility networks, and private land plots, as well as by demolishing many old structures.

The whole project is broken down into three stages so as to utilize successive segments of the Central Highway in proportion to the financial outlays incurred. The first vehicular traffic will be able to travel from Gliwice to Katowice on the new route -- whose cost in 1985 prices will be more than 100 billion zloty -- in the year 2000.

With Own Funds

For this year 1.2 billion zloty is to be spent, of which 700 million zloty on construction and installation operations. These funds will be allocated for, among other things, dismantling existing utility systems from the first segments of the route, organizing technical bases, building access roads, and reconstructing surface lines, and also for excavation and roadbuilding work in Swietochlowice. The workforce of the Silesian Roadwork Enterprise of Mikolow has not only set up an excellent base there but also already commenced excavation operations on the route.

Powerful road machinery has already transferred hundreds of thousands of cubic meters of soil, preparing the embankment for the future road. To this end, the local waste dumps of the Hortensja Mine are being used. Since mine dumps will also be used on other segments of the route, the advantage will be twofold: a new road will be built, and at the same time the environmentally polluting mine dumps will disappear. It has been calculated that as much as 90 percent of the earth material needed to build the Central Highway will be taken from the so-called mine gangue.

The Director for Highway Construction Ireneusz Maszczyk said, "Both this year and next year this complicated road project will be financed with the funds of Katowice Voivodship itself. So far all work has been done on schedule. In the first 7 months of this year we expended 60.7 percent of the funds allocated for this year.

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CEMA, NON-CEMA FOREIGN TRADE, COOPERATION REVIEWED

Bucharest ANALE DE ISTORIE in Romanian No 3, 1986 pp 104-122

[Article by Iulian Danescu: "The Evolution of Romania's International Economic Relations in the Period of the Forging of the Multilaterally Developed Socialist Society"; passages within slantlines published in italics]

[Text] More and more active participation in the world economic circuit represents an essential component of the strategy for building the multilaterally developed socialist society in Romania. The view on the expansion of foreign economic relations has started and starts from the fact that the achievement of strong economic development in a historically short period necessarily implies active participation in the international division of labor and the promotion of a wide exchange of material, scientific and technical, and cultural values with other peoples. As Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu pointed out, "Acting firmly to strongly develop the production forces and the national economy, we will have to expand international economic exchanges and cooperation in production--as a factor of particular importance in our country's entire economic activity." (Footnote 1) (Nicolae Ceausescu, "Cuvintare la Congresul al III-lea al Frontului Democratiei si Unitatii Socialiste, 7 februarie 1985" [A Speech at the Third Congress of the Socialist Democracy and Unity Front, 7 February 1985], Politica Publishing House, Bucharest, 1985, p 16)

Through the consistent implementation of the policy of developing economic relations with other countries, Romania's participation in international economic exchanges was expanded and diversified continually, especially in the period inaugurated by the ninth party congress, in 1965. In 1984, Romania had economic relations with 150 states, as compared with 64 in 1965 and 120 in 1975; in the 1965-1985 interval, the volume of foreign trade grew more than eightfold. (Footnote 2) ("Anuarul statistic al Republicii Socialiste Romania, 1984" [The Statistical Yearbook of the Socialist Republic of Romania, 1984], Central Directorate of Statistics, Bucharest, 1985, p 259)

Throughout the process of expanding the country's foreign economic relations, the requirement of rationally combining the internal and external factors of development was borne in mind, with a priority role being given to our own development effort. However, this priority, a foundation for an independent policy, did not mean isolation on an international level. On the contrary, through its own development effort, Romania created for itself the premises

for active and fair participation in the world economic circuit and expanded its trade relations and its relations of cooperation in production and in science and technology with all states of the world, relations based on the principles of full equality, national independence and sovereignty, noninterference in internal affairs and mutual advantage, and respect for each nation's right to determine its fate by itself.

The national economy's multilateral development on the basis of industrializing the country provided continual growth in the stock available for exporting industrial products and created new industrial subbranches in the fields of machine building, chemistry, and consumer goods, whose products, after meeting the domestic market's needs, were able to be offered for exportation. At the same time, on the basis of the activity of scientific research and technological development, a dynamic rise in the technical and qualitative competitiveness of the products for exportation and a widening of the possibilities and fields of scientific and technical cooperation and of cooperation in production with other states were achieved.

Stimulated by the national economy's development and diversification, foreign economic exchanges helped substantially, in their turn, to achieve a high rate of economic development, to provide the raw materials needed by the economy, and to raise the technical and qualitative level of the production activity.

For these reasons, and considering that economic and cultural relations between states help to achieve a climate of detente on an international level, Romania has acted and is acting consistently to develop exchanges of material and spiritual values with all states of the world and to promote free trade and unrestricted economic cooperation.

1. The Consistent Development of Friendship, Economic Collaboration, and Solidarity with the Socialist Countries. Romania's Participation in CEMA.

Throughout the period of socialist construction, our country has put in the center of the policy of developing its foreign relations the continual expansion and strengthening of friendly, multilateral collaboration with all the socialist countries, an orientation objectively determined by its economic and political interests. "Our country," Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu stated in the report presented at the ninth party congress, "regards as its internationalist duty the continual development of brotherly relations with all the socialist countries, making its active contribution to the unity and cohesion of the socialist world system." (Footnote 3) (Nicolae Ceausescu, "Romania pe drumul desavirsirii constructiei socialiste" [Romania on the Way to the Completion of Socialist Construction], Vol 1, Politica Publishing House, Bucharest, 1968, p 100) This position was promoted steadily and consistently in the decades that followed, with continual action being taken to develop and strengthen the friendship and economic, scientific, technical, and cultural collaboration with these countries. Romania regards this collaboration as a very important factor in speeding up the multilateral progress of each socialist country.

A prominent role in developing Romania's relations with the other socialist countries was played by the treaties of friendship, collaboration, and mutual

assistance concluded with each particular one. In 1968-1972, the treaties of friendship, collaboration, and mutual assistance were renewed with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (7 July 1970), the People's Republic of Bulgaria (19 November 1970), the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (16 August 1968), the Polish People's Republic (12 November 1970), and the Hungarian People's Republic (24 February 1972). In addition, the first treaties of friendship, collaboration, and mutual assistance were concluded with the German Democratic Republic (12 May 1971) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (May 1976). These treaties establish the framework for the continual development of collaboration between the socialist countries in all fields of activity.

Economic collaboration, materialized particularly in the expansion and diversification of /trade exchanges/, experienced strong growth. Thus, the volume of Romania's trade exchanges with the socialist countries rose 2.2-fold in the 1961-1970 decade and 3.6-fold in the 1971-1980 decade. The total volume of Romania's foreign trade with the other socialist countries rose from 1,273 million rubles in 1965 to 7,439 million rubles in 1983.

The Soviet Union--the most important partner in Romania's foreign economic collaboration throughout the postwar period--has the top spot, with its percentage in the volume of Romanian foreign trade being 17.3 percent in 1984.

Trade relations with the People's Republic of China, situated at a relatively low level in 1965, also experienced dynamic development, with the volume of exchanges growing nearly 12-fold in the 1965-1983 interval.

Acting consistently to develop friendship, collaboration, and solidarity with all the socialist countries, Romania militated to overcome the differences existing and to restore the unity of the socialist countries, feeling that this is in the interest of each socialist country in particular and of the cause of socialism in general. In this regard, Romania's president, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, stressed: "Continually strengthening the friendship and collaboration with all the socialist countries, we have not conceived and do not conceive the expansion of relations with one socialist country to the detriment of relations with others, we have not counterposed and do not counterpose friendship with one country to collaboration with other countries. Likewise, moreover, we do not generally counterpose relations with one country to relations with other countries. We feel that we must do everything to develop relations of friendship and collaboration with all the socialist states and with all states of the world, regardless of social order. Romania's relations with the socialist countries, without exception, form a single whole, at the basis of which stands our principled, firm, and consistent policy, directed toward strengthening the unity of all the socialist countries, toward increasing socialism's force and influence in the world." (Footnote 4) (Nicolae Ceausescu, "Romania pe drumul construirii societatii socialiste multilaterale dezvoltate" [Romania on the Way to Constructing the Multilaterally Developed Socialist Society], Vol 17, Politica Publishing House, Bucharest, 1979, pp 301-302)

Along with the steady development of trade relations with the socialist countries, also stimulated by the continual improvement of the legal and long-term contractual framework, a wide range of forms of economic, scientific, and

technical collaboration was established, diversified, and improved in the 1965-1984 period.

In the development of Romania's economic relations with other countries, the cooperative actions carried out had a obvious stimulative influence. Concretized in complex contracts, spread out over several years, that go beyond the traditional framework of the sale and purchase of goods and services, including operations that complement one another--at the level of production, of development and transfer of technology, of marketing of products, etc.--cooperation leads to stable economic relations between partners, it generating new flows of goods and services. This is the reason why Romania devotes special attention to the promotion of modern and efficient forms of cooperation, creating for this purpose a solid legal and organizational framework.

Over the years, the policy of expansion of international cooperation was concretized in a large number of actions of mutually advantageous cooperation. The great majority of them were carried out in the sphere of material production. In this framework, the relations of specialization and cooperation in production experienced wide expansion in Romania's collaboration with all the socialist countries, they being an active factor in the expansion of reciprocal trade exchanges and in the formation of advanced structures of exportation and importation.

The role and contribution of collaboration with the socialist countries, in the process of economic growth, were expanded in proportion to the results obtained in strengthening the economic, industrial, scientific, and technological potential both in Romania and in the partner countries. The creation of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance--the first international organization for multilateral collaboration by the socialist countries--constituted an important moment in establishing and developing broad relations of economic, scientific, and technical collaboration among the participating states. As follows from CEMA's basic documents, their character as relations of a new type was conceived through the very formulation of the basic objectives placed before the activity of the organization, as well as through the content of the principles put at its foundation. Thus, it was resolved that the purpose of the organization is to contribute--through the deepening and expansion of multilateral economic collaboration and through the achievement of real, mutually advantageous assistance--to the more marked development of each member country's economy, to the modernization of the production forces and to the continual growth of labor productivity, to the raising of the level of industrialization of the countries with less developed industry, and to the convergence and gradual equalization of the levels of economic development of all the member countries.

Actively developing relations of collaboration on many planes with all the socialist countries, Romania devotes special attention to expanding and deepening the collaboration with the CEMA member states, consistently promoting in the practice of the relations with these countries forms and methods of cooperation of the most varied sorts, continually militating to increase the efficiency of this collaboration. The CEMA activity was developed and diversified, going from the relatively simple forms of collaboration to higher,

complex forms, especially in the sphere of material production--specialization and cooperation in industry, in agriculture, and in other fields of major interest, the construction of economic facilities with joint efforts, cooperation in science and technology, in the fields of valuta, financial, and credit relations and of international transportation, in the creation of specialized international economic organizations, and so on.

In 1971, the Complex Program for the Further Expansion and Improvement of Collaboration and the Development of Socialist Economic Integration of the CEMA Member Countries, which made new contributions to enriching and diversifying the forms and fields of economic collaboration and cooperation, was adopted unanimously at the 25th session of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, held in Bucharest. On the basis of its provisions, the five special programs on long-term collaboration, aimed at carrying out actions of specialization and cooperation in fields of great economic importance meant to give long-term stability and greater efficiency to the relations of collaboration, were adopted in the 1976-1980 5-year period. Thus, a series of agreements on multilateral cooperation were concluded in the following fields: fuel, energy, and raw materials; modern machines, equipment, and technologies; nuclear-electric power stations; industrial robots, microelectronics, means of telecommunications, and new means of computer technology; food products and industrial consumer goods; transportation connections between member countries; etc.

The trade relations and the relations of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation with the other CEMA member states were thus developed continually on both a bilateral and a multilateral plane. In the 1965-1983 period, the volume of the value of Romania's trade exchanges with the partner countries in CEMA rose 6.2-fold, attaining the level of 133,208 million lei in the last year of the period. (Footnote 5) ("Anuarul statistic al Republicii Socialiste Romania, 1984" [The Statistical Yearbook of the Socialist Republic of Romania, 1984], pp 264-270) In the same period, in proportion to the progress achieved in the process of modernizing the branch industrial structure in Romania, as well as in the partner socialist countries, qualitative changes, reflected in, among other things, improved structures of the exchange flows, were made in the reciprocal collaboration.

In the case of both exportation and importation, substantial growth in the percentage of processed industrial products is characteristic in this regard. Under the conditions of a rise of about 6-fold in the volume of Romania's /exportation/ to the CEMA member countries in the 1965-1983 period, the annual volume of the deliveries of machines, equipment, and means of transportation rose about 10-fold, with the percentage of this category of products in the total exportation to the partner countries in CEMA rising from 16 percent in 1960 to 44.2 percent in 1983. (Footnote 6) ("Conjunctura economiei mondiale" [The Situation of the World Economy], Bucharest, 1985, p 135) At the same time, the percentage of the deliveries of industrial raw materials, fuel, and food raw materials fell (although the volume of the value of these deliveries rose in the period analyzed). In this period, significant achievements were distinguished on the plane of diversifying and modernizing the supply for exportation, especially of products of machine building, there being a rise of 8-fold in deliveries of electrotechnical equipment, 8.2-fold in deliveries of

equipment for drilling and geologic exploration, and about 16-fold in exports of cutting machine tools (Footnote 7) (Ibid.); measurement apparatus and instruments, laboratory apparatus for scientific research, communications apparatus, and so on appeared for exportation.

At the same time, processed industrial products constantly had a high percentage in the structure of Romania's /importation/ from the CEMA member socialist countries. In contrast, the percentage of raw materials and fuel in the total importation fell from 40 percent in 1960 to about 30 percent in 1970. (Footnote 8) (Ibid.) The trend of growth in the percentage of this group of products in Romania's importation from the CEMA member countries occurring between 1975 and 1983 (with significant fluctuations from one year to another) did not reflect a real rise in the physical volume of Romanian imports, which, on the contrary, fell, but was exclusively the consequence of the successive increases to which import prices were subject after 1974.

Despite the progress made in developing reciprocal exchanges with the CEMA member countries, they managed only partly to reflect the significantly increased export capacity of machine building and other industrial branches. Calculated per capita, the volume of Romania's exportation of machines and equipment within reciprocal trade was, in the period considered, five-six times lower than the exportation of the same category of products done by other CEMA member European socialist countries.

On the other hand, in the 1971-1980 decade, the cut made in the supply of fuel and some basic raw materials by the CEMA member countries caused for Romania some difficulties in finding alternative sources on the international market. At the same time, this cut affected the general process of improving the structure of the exchanges between our country and the other CEMA member countries. Thus, to cover the continually rising cost of crude oil and other raw materials, which it had to buy on other markets with payment in convertible valuta, Romania had to mobilize a big volume of industrial products that were directed toward the countries from which it imported those products, which led in the 1970's to a decline in the share held by the CEMA member countries in Romanian exportation within all groups of products, except for agricultural and food commodities.

Starting from the necessity of solving within CEMA the essential problem of furnishing fuel, energy, raw materials, and supplies, Romania urged the transposition of the complex program and the special programs for long-term collaboration, the utilization of the mutually advantageous forms of collaboration already tested, and the finding of new forms and fields of common interest.

In the course of the practical development of CEMA activity, many and varied viewpoints were formulated by economists in the socialist countries regarding the concept of socialist economic integration and, in particular, the ways to achieve it. The elucidation of the concept of integration thus became necessary in order to find the most suitable forms and ways of collaboration within CEMA. In this regard, back in 1968, our country's president, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, stated: "In our opinion, the CEMA statute offers wide possibilities of efficient cooperation among the member states and corresponds in all

respects to the current and future needs for the development of collaboration among the socialist countries. By no means can we agree to the abandonment of the statute's basic principles, to the promotion of theses and proposals that support the 'integration' of the CEMA states, the investment of this organization with superstate prerogatives, the creation of supranational economic bodies. This would be detrimental to the sovereignty and independence of the states and could not but hurt the collaboration among the member countries, it also having negative repercussions on socialism's attraction and influence in the world. Through the forms and methods of collaboration that it promotes, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance must also become accessible and attractive to other socialist and even nonsocialist countries, as is provided in the statute; in proportion as CEMA demonstrates more clearly its open character, the more it will increase its contribution to strengthening the socialist system's force and influence and to developing international collaboration." (Footnote 9) (Nicolae Ceausescu, "Romania pe drumul desavirsirii constructiei socialiste" [Romania on the Way to the Completion of Socialist Construction], Vol 3, Politica Publishing House, Bucharest, 1969, pp 744-745)

Along with other important factors meant to contribute to the growth of trade flows and to the improvement of their structure, Romania gives an all-important role to the expansion of relations of specialization and cooperation in production and to the expansion of cooperation in scientific research and technological development with the socialist countries and is acting consistently to expand this activity, to improve the framework for performing it, and to practice efficient, mutually advantageous forms of cooperation, putting on a priority plane the machine-building industry, the chemical industry, and the sectors producing raw materials, fuel, and energy.

Romania's participation in carrying out--up to 1984--over 200 multilateral agreements on collaboration concluded by the interested member countries constituted the concrete expression of the results obtained in this direction on the plane of collaboration within CEMA. Many cooperative actions consisting of the construction of facilities through joint efforts in the fields of machine building and chemistry were thus carried out on the territory of Romania or on the territory of the partner countries, with the production achieved by them constituting, on the basis of the agreements on cooperation, an object of reciprocal exchanges. Among the most representative actions of this kind we mention the construction of the Giurgiu-Ruse heavy machinery factory within Romanian-Bulgarian cooperation, Romania's participation in the construction of big production capacities in the pulp, asbestos, and ferroalloy industries with joint efforts in the USSR and the utilization of a deposit of natural gas, the construction of a plant for caustic soda, chlorine, and chlorine products in our country with the participation of the USSR (with 80 percent of the production being delivered to the Soviet party in countertrade for goods of high economic value), the construction of a nickel and cobalt plant in Cuba, with Romania receiving in countertrade the agreed quantities of the products achieved in these units, and so on. Cooperative actions were also carried out with regard to the production of machines or chemical products in our country on the basis of documentation provided by the partners and the delivery of such products to meet their needs (such as, for example, cooperation with the GDR in the production of photographic lenses and measurement and control apparatus).

A big percentage in all of the collaboration goes to the participation of Romanian enterprises in production activity based on multilateral agreements on specialization in production concluded in the 1965-1984 period with branch economic organizations in other CEMA member countries, agreements that consisted of specialization in production for types and prototype dimensions of finished products or of subassemblies and parts, within a bilateral or multilateral framework, with a view to meeting through reciprocal deliveries the needs of the partner countries.

Specialization in production and the making of reciprocal deliveries opened up wide prospects for the growth and diversification of Romania's trade exchanges as well as those of the partner countries. On the basis of the accords and understandings on specialization and cooperation in production concluded with the CEMA member countries, the volume of the exportation of specialized products (Footnote *) (Specialized products are those categories of products that are achieved on the basis of accords and conventions on specialization and cooperation in production concluded through bilateral and multilateral agreements.) in the machine-building field achieved by Romania in relations with the CEMA member countries rose from 41 million rubles in 1973 to 658 million rubles in 1982, with their percentage in the total Romanian deliveries of machines and equipment to the partner countries growing from 8 percent to 47 percent. At the same time, over 100 multilateral agreements concluded thus far have provided the framework for cooperation between Romanian organizations and institutes and those in other CEMA member countries in solving concrete problems of research, development, and design, including in international scientific research laboratories, staffs, and institutes.

In addition, Romania has participated in the creation of a large number of specialized international economic organizations and unions within which it acts to achieve active and efficient cooperation in various fields.

Along with the development of cooperation in the industrial field, our country is acting constantly, with concrete initiatives, to expand and improve radically the collaboration in agricultural production and in the field of exchanges of agricultural and food products, with about three-fourths of the total Romanian exportation of this group of products being done on the markets of the partner socialist countries, while about one-third of Romania's importation of agricultural and food products also comes from these markets.

As a result of objectively analyzing the causes that led both to slower development of the reciprocal trade exchanges of agricultural and food products among the CEMA member socialist countries and to growth in the percentage of third countries in securing the importation of scarce products, the Romanian party proposed in the CEMA sessions concrete actions directed toward improving the methodology of price setting in the reciprocal trade in agricultural and food products, turning to the practicing of prices that would offset the real expenses for the development of agricultural production and the marketing of agricultural and food products, and utilizing additional forms to stimulate the production and trade exchanges of agricultural and food products.

A very important role in solving these problems went to the implementation of the agreements concluded during the high-level economic conference of the CEMA member countries in June 1984. Through the documents and decisions adopted and through the directions of action and the principles affirmed, the conference "opened up the prospect of raising to a higher level the mutually advantageous cooperation and collaboration within CEMA, on both a bilateral and a multilateral plane, in the interest of more markedly developing the national economies of the member countries and increasing socialism's force and prestige in the world arena." (Footnote 10) ("The Session of the Political Executive Committee of the RCP Central Committee, 22 June 1984," SCINTEIA, Yr LIII, No 13,011, 23 June 1984)

An all-important component of the collaboration among the CEMA member countries, that of collaboration in /scientific research/ in fields of peak technology, underwent notable development. Back in 1967, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the GDR, Poland, Romania, Hungary, and the Soviet Union adopted a long-term program for research in the following fields of the space sciences: physics, meteorology, medicine and biology, and telecommunications. After 3 years, the program received the official name of Intercosmos. Beginning in 1969, through the combined efforts of the countries participating in this program, over 20 artificial satellites were built and placed in orbit, and research was done with the help of geophysical rockets and meteorological rockets. The Romanian specialists made their contribution to the creation of all-important apparatus, which was tested on satellites and spacecraft, including on the craft with which the first Romanian astronaut flew.

In addition, within CEMA, special attention was devoted to collaboration in the field of scientific and technical research for creating and developing the base of thermonuclear energy production. A series of interesting proposals on the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes were made at the 34th session of the CEMA Permanent Commission, which was held in Mamaia, Romania, in 1978. Later, the program for scientific and technical collaboration by the CEMA member countries with regard to controlled thermonuclear synthesis for the 1980-1990 period, in carrying out which Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the GDR, Romania, Hungary, and the USSR are participating, was adopted. The joint research at the TOKAMAK 15 installations, the performance of experimental research, and the preparation of the perspective designs of the thermonuclear reactor are among the main forms of collaboration in this field. The program for collaboration in the field of using the process of controlled thermonuclear synthesis between the Central Institute of Physics under the State Committee for Nuclear Energy in Romania and the I.V. Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy in the USSR was carried out in 1981-1985.

Although there were also some inherent difficulties during the process of improving the collaboration on many planes with the CEMA member socialist countries, this collaboration had a real, positive effect on Romania's economic development in the 1965-1985 period and on the reduction of the negative effects of the strong world crisis on the national economy in the second half of this period.

In the speech given at the session of the Political Executive Committee of the RCP Central Committee on 27 December 1985, our party's secretary general, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, referring to the Complex Program for the Scientific and Technical Progress of the CEMA Member Countries up to the Year 2000, adopted at the 41st (extraordinary) session of CEMA on 17-18 December 1985, held in Moscow, pointed out: "Indeed, this program fits into the decisions adopted at the high-level conference of the CEMA member countries in 1984 on the development of collaboration, specialization, and cooperation in production. Through these decisions it was intended that the CEMA member countries would meet in a better way their requirements for raw materials and energy, for more complete use of production capacities, and for specialization in production." (Footnote 11) ("Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu's Speech Given at the Session of the Political Executive Committee of the RCP Central Committee on 27 December 1985," SCINTEIA, Yr LV, No 13,485, 28 December 1985) At the same time, drawing attention to the fact that "in coordinating the economic plans for the 1986-1990 5-year period--at least as far as Romania is concerned--the objectives set in the program adopted at the high-level economic conference in 1984 are not being attained," Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu stated: "Consequently, we feel that we must act so that we may fulfill in the immediately following period the provisions of the program that we adopted in 1984. Only on this basis will we also create the conditions needed so that the provisions of the complex program in the field of research and of introduction of technical progress may be fulfilled well." (Footnote 12) (Ibid.)

At the same time, our party's secretary general specified that active participation in this program does not imply and must not lead to isolation or to the reduction of collaboration with other countries of the world. "On the contrary, this assumes that we have in view the intensification of the scientific and technical collaboration with other states, particularly with all the socialist countries, and participate actively in the collaboration in the field of technical progress with the developing countries, as well as in the collaboration with the developed capitalist countries, on the well-known principles of equality and mutual advantage." (Footnote 13) (Ibid.)

Important bilateral economic cooperation with the socialist countries that are not CEMA members was achieved in this period. In this regard, we mention the cooperation with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (the construction of the television factory in Phenian, of a cement factory, of a chemical fiber plant, and of a wood-industrialization combine), with the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (the joint construction and operation of the Iron Gates I and II hydroelectric power stations and cooperation between the petrochemical combines in Ploiesti and Pancevo), with the People's Republic of China (truck and tractor assembly lines and collaboration in the construction of the Coking Coal Combine in Huoxian), and so on.

Romania's economic, scientific, and technical collaboration with the socialist countries will also undergo further strong development. In the report presented at the 13th party congress, in 1984, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu stressed that "Romania will act with complete determination regarding the implementation of the agreements on the improvement of CEMA's activity and the development of economic exchanges and of cooperation in production." At the same

time, the party's secretary general stated: "We will expand the economic exchanges and the cooperation in production with all the socialist countries. At the same time, Romania will act to expand further its economic relations with the developing countries, as well as with the developed capitalist countries, with all states of the world, regardless of social order." (Footnote 14) (Nicolae Ceausescu, "Raport la cel de-al XIII-lea Congres al Partidului Comunist Roman, 19 noiembrie 1984" [A Report to the 13th Congress of the Romanian Communist Party, 19 November 1984], Politica Publishing House, Bucharest, 1984, p 25)

2. The Expansion of Economic Relations With the Developing Countries

Socialist Romania consistently promotes a policy of collaborating with the peoples liberated from colonialist domination and of strengthening the solidarity with the national liberation movements. It has with these countries similar concerns and common aspirations of progress and prosperity and of involvement in the struggle to promote new relations of equality between states. In consequence, the policy of Romania and President Nicolae Ceausescu on the developing countries is that of continual and substantial material, political, and moral support, given for gaining and consolidating independence and for beginning the process of eliminating underdevelopment. After the ninth party congress, this policy gave a new and strong stimulus to the relations of collaboration with the developing countries.

As confirmation of the international prestige that its principled position on mankind's great problems has, Romania was accepted as a member with full rights in the Group of 77 at its third ministerial conference, which was held in Manila in 1976. The Political Executive Committee of the RCP Central Committee, in its session of 12 February 1976, stressed that our country's acceptance as a member of the Group of 77 represented an expression of the closer and closer relations of solidarity and cooperation existing between Romania and the developing countries, of the expansion of the friendly relations with these states, and of the cooperation among them in the international arena. (Footnote 15) (SCINTEIA, Yr XLV, No 10,413, 13 February 1976) Also in 1976, at the fifth high-level conference of the nonaligned countries in Colombo, Romania was given the status of a permanent guest at the events of the nonalignment movement.

Romania's interest in participating in the movement of the developing countries is based on the conviction that the small and middle-sized countries and the nonaligned countries must have a more and more important role in the world arena and that they can fulfill this role if they act as a unit and if they are determined to make their voice heard.

Romania made an active contribution to the preparations for the sessions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and to the events, on all levels, of the Group of 77 and of the movement of the non-aligned countries. Back in the period of preparing for the first UNCTAD (Geneva, 1964), our country presented initiatives and proposals that were included in the report drawn up by the conference's preparatory committee. These initiatives referred to the elaboration of the basic principles of economic

and trade agreements, to the deliveries of investment goods on credit, with the repayment of credit being done through shares of the production of the units created, to the importance of the resources liberated through disarmament for economic development, and so on. Romania showed the same interest in the preparations for and holding of the other UNCTAD sessions, promoting a series of initiatives meant to come to the aid of the developing countries in the sense of stimulating their foreign trade and speeding up their economic development. Our country also participated as a coauthor in a large number of draft resolutions presented by the developing countries in connection with the great majority of the problems discussed. Thus, at the fourth UNCTAD session (Nairobi, 1976), Romania militated firmly for the adoption of the proposals formulated by the Group of 77 in the Manila Declaration and in the Action Program, documents that synthesized the conclusions, positions, and proposals of the group's member countries.

The foreign policy promoted by Romania and President Nicolae Ceausescu opened up wide possibilities of expanding and increasing the collaboration on many planes with the developing countries. In the favorable climate created on the basis of strict respect for reciprocal interests, trade exchanges and economic cooperation were developed at rapid rates. The volume of the value of Romania's trade with the developing countries rose about 5-fold in the 1960-1970 period and about 15-fold in the 1970-1980 period. In comparison with 1960, when it had trade relations with 35 developing countries, which totaled only 5 percent of the volume of Romanian foreign trade, Romania carried out economic exchanges with over 100 developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America in 1981, amounting to 27.2 percent of its total foreign trade exchanges. At the start of the 1980's, about 60-65 percent of Romania's trade with the developing states was carried out with partner countries in Asia and the Middle East, about 28-32 percent with African countries, and about 5-7 percent with Latin American countries. The qualitative increases in the volume of trade exchanges in the 1965-1980 period are very suggestive: In 1980, the volume of exchanges attained about 14 billion lei in valuta with developing countries in Asia, as compared with 224 million in 1965; about 8.3 billion lei in valuta with countries in Africa, as compared with 300 million in 1965; and 1.1 billion lei in valuta with countries in Latin America, as compared with approximately 75 million in 1975.

After 1980, the worsening of the world economic crisis and the accentuation of the special difficulties with which the developing countries were confronted (difficulties that compelled them to, among other things, cancel or postpone many investment projects and to cut their imports) also influenced to a certain degree the evolution of the economic relations between Romania and these countries, with some partners experiencing slowdowns or even cutbacks in 1981-1982. However, this decline in the rate had a partial and circumstantial character, with the long-term trend remaining that of further development of the volume of exchanges.

Significant changes also occurred in the structure of trade exchanges, reflecting the economic progress achieved both by our country and by the partner countries. The evolution of the structure of Romania's /exports/ to the developing countries exhibited a more and more marked trend of diversification

and expansion of the deliveries of technology, technical assistance, and a wide range of products of machine building, needed by the partners in the process of developing their own national industry. Thus, at the start of the 1980's, 50-53 percent of Romania's exports to the developing countries consisted of machines, equipment, means of transportation, chemical products, and industrial consumer goods. On certain markets, this percentage was significantly higher. Many of the deliveries of machines, equipment, and installations were connected with cooperative actions, with Romania's participation in the construction of important economic facilities in the partner developing countries. In the 1970-1980 period, chemical products represented between 10 percent and 14 percent of our country's exportation to the developing countries. This group underwent marked diversification, it being represented, for the most part, by chemical fertilizer, plastic, synthetic threads and fibers, synthetic rubber, dyes, drugs, etc. in recent years.

Along with the above-mentioned products, a wide range of rolled steel, products of the wood-processing industry (tile derived from wood, furniture, paper, etc), and industrial consumer goods were also present in Romania's exportation to these countries.

Regarding Romania's /imports/ from the developing countries, one notes the rise in the percentage held by industrial raw materials, in accordance with our country's growing needs, and the interest of the partners in utilizing for exportation the natural resources recently drawn into the circuit of the national economies. Thus, the main products imported by Romania from the developing countries were crude oil, coal, iron ore, nonferrous ores and concentrates, natural phosphates, textile fibers (cotton and jute), and so on, products that were added to those also imported in earlier periods. Romania also bought from the developing countries, within the limits of its import needs, metallurgical products (crude iron, ferroalloys, and rolled metal), products of the machine-building industry (cables, some machine tools, microbuses, buses, etc.), of the chemical industry (tanning agents, synthetic threads and fibers, tires, etc.), and of light industry and the food industry (cloth, canned fruit, etc.), and even some products with a high degree of processing (drugs, diamond tools, etc.).

A supporter of a global system of trade preferences between the developing countries, Romania agreed to the so-called protocol of the 16 within GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), where it negotiated rate reductions in customs duties for goods of common interest.

Special attention is devoted to expanding and diversifying the cooperation with the developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America; about half of all the cooperative actions initiated by Romania have been carried out just with these countries. The cooperative actions have helped both to develop the production forces in the partner states and industrialize and efficiently utilize their natural resources and to meet needs of Romania's national economy. The cooperation has been materialized in a wide variety of forms, depending on reciprocal interest, covering a wide range of fields, especially branches of maximum importance to the partner countries and branches in which Romania has the necessary experience and technical capacity. Among the prestigious

accomplishments in the developing countries to which collaboration with Romania has contributed abundantly, we mention: the oil refineries in Barauni, Gauhati, and Haldia (India), Karachi (Pakistan), Zarka (Jordan), and Banyas (Syria--one of the biggest refineries in the Middle East), the soda factory in Shiraz (Iran), the chemical fertilizer combine in Homs (Syria--with installations for producing triple superphosphates, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, and aluminum fluoride), the plant for sodium products in El Mex (Egypt), the tractor and truck assembly lines in Iran, India, and Thailand, the thermoelectric power stations built in Iran, Jordan, Syria, Pakistan, and the Philippines, the cement factories in Al Qaim and Sin Jar (Iraq), Sheik-Said (Syria), Naga Hammadi (Egypt), and Kohat (Pakistan) and those in Lebanon and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, the wood-processing combines built in Iraq, Iran, Syria, Bangladesh, and India, and so on. At the same time, Romanian enterprises have participated with studies, designs, equipment, and specialists in utilizing, in various developing countries, mineral deposits, land facilities, and irrigation projects and in building highways, railroads, ports, and social and cultural facilities.

At the same time, the formation of joint production and marketing companies has an important role in the promotion of economic relations between Romania and the developing countries. Thus, in the 1975-1984 period, a number of joint production and marketing companies with headquarters in the partner countries were founded, including Somina, in Morocco, for the production and marketing of copper concentrates, Carombois, in the Central African Republic, and Nirowi, in Nigeria, for the processing of exotic logs, Productora Mexicana de Farmacos, in Mexico, for the production of drugs, Selmar, in Liberia, for ship transportation, and others.

The constant support given by Romania to the developing countries in the struggle to eliminate underdevelopment, and the solidarity with these states, also turn up in the sympathy with which our country views the difficulties encountered by the developing states in providing the trained personnel needed. Thus, at the start of the 1980's, over 15,000 Romanian specialists were performing their activity in about 60 developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and about 16,000 young people from these countries were taking university or advanced-training courses in Romania, many of them receiving scholarships from the Romanian state.

The positive results obtained by Romania in the 1965-1984 period in the direction of expanding and diversifying the collaboration on many planes with the developing countries placed the economic relations with these countries on a stable, durable foundation.

3. The Promotion of Collaboration and Cooperation With the Developed Capitalist Countries, with All States of the World, Regardless of Social Order

Guided by the imperatives of speeding up economic and social development, in accordance with the trends of contemporary progress, the Romanian Communist Party promotes with farsightedness a policy of wider and wider involvement in the international economic circuit and of participation in the process of expanding the collaboration, on many planes, with all states of the world,

feeling that, at the same time, such a policy represents a contribution to the consolidation of peace and security in the world. In this context, action was taken to expand and diversify the geographical area of Romania's bilateral relations, along with expanding its participation in the activity of the various international economic organizations.

The fruitful talks that Romania's president, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, held with the party and state leaders in many countries in Europe, Africa, Asia, and America and the documents signed on those occasions had a decisive role in promoting Romania's foreign economic relations.

The process of expanding and diversifying the geographic area of Romanian foreign trade was closely connected with the radical changes that occurred in the national economy and with the needs required for the country's independent development. This process took into account the vital importance of properly providing raw materials for the strong industrial base created in the years of socialist construction and, in addition, the necessity of providing outlets for Romanian products over as wide a geographic area as possible.

The expansion of the economic relations with the developed capitalist countries constitutes a reflection of Romania's policy of promoting collaboration with all states of the world, regardless of social order. "In the spirit of the principles of peaceful coexistence and the necessity of active participation in the international division of labor," Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu says, "Romania will expand its relations with all countries of the world, including the developed capitalist countries. We feel that there are wide possibilities of expanding these exchanges and of achieving cooperation in production, including by forming joint companies, which will place the relations between Romania and the respective countries on a stable, durable foundation." (Footnote 16) (Nicolae Ceausescu, "Romania pe drumul construirii societatii socialiste multilateral dezvoltate" [Romania on the Way to Constructing the Multilaterally Developed Socialist Society], Vol 11, Politica Publishing House, Bucharest, 1975, p 73)

The expansion of the economic relations with the developed capitalist countries, many of which constitute traditional business partners, was connected with the efforts made by Romania in the direction of industrializing and modernizing the entire national economy. Romania's interest in providing through importation the machines and tools needed for the modern equipping of the national economy coincided with the concerns of the Western firms for expanding their outlets and with their interest in buying products on the list of the Romanian export supply.

The growth in the volume of the exchanges with these states was also favored by the placement of economic relations in a stable legal framework, based on the reciprocal application of the treatment of the most-favored-nation clause, the institutionalization of the joint economic commissions at a governmental level, the concluding of agreements on industrial, scientific, and technical cooperation, and Romania's inclusion among the beneficiaries of the general system of customs preferences. The bilateral framework for the economic relations with these countries was supplemented by Romania's acceptance of GATT in

1971, which regulates on multilateral contractual bases the making of international trade exchanges.

Therefore, the development of the economic exchanges with the capitalist countries resulted from the objective character of the growth of the economic interdependencies among all states of the world, regardless of economic and political system, level of development, geographic zone, or philosophical views.

Along with the growth in the volume of exchanges, qualitative changes also occurred in their structure. The percentage of machines, equipment, and means of transportation in Romanian exportation to the developed capitalist countries experienced continual growth; the group of industrial consumer goods followed the same trend. The percentage of the two groups in Romanian exportation to the developed capitalist countries rose from about 0.9 percent in 1965 to over 25 percent in 1980. (Footnote 17) ("Strategia dezvoltarii intensive a economiei romanesti" [The Strategy for the Intensive Development of the Romanian Economy], Politica Publishing House, Bucharest, 1985, p 222) On the basis of the growth in the production potential and especially in the technical and qualitative level of the products made, spectacular increases were obtained in the exportation of tractors, bearings, power transformers, technological equipment, and so on. New categories of products, made for the first time by national industry, also appeared on the export list. Thus, in the 1966-1970 5-year period, Romania began to export durable consumer goods--television sets, refrigerators, and radios--and the 1971-1975 5-year period marked the start of the exportation of electronic means of automation, computer technology, automobiles, and other products that were not made in the country in 1965, they constituting the object of importation. At the same time, there was a net downward trend in the percentage of raw materials and of products with a low degree of processing in the total exportation.

The improvement in the structure of exports reflects the basic changes occurring in Romania's industry, the growth in its technical level, and the rise in the international competitiveness of Romanian products.

Regarding the /structure of imports/, machines, equipment, and means of transportation represented, over the years, the main group of products, although their percentage dropped continually, there rising, in contrast, the percentage of fuel, minerals, and metals, of chemical products, and of raw materials for the production of food commodities.

Despite these improvements, a structural asymmetry in exports in relation to imports continued to persist in Romania's trade exchanges with the developed capitalist countries. Consequently, the further improvement of the structure of reciprocal trade, by more rapidly increasing the percentage of industrial products with a high degree of processing in Romania's total exportation to these countries, constituted one of the basic objectives in the sphere of the exchanges with the Western countries in the 1981-1985 5-year period.

In the strategy for developing trade exchanges with the developed capitalist countries, Romania pursued the fulfillment of its economic interests by taking into account the real possibilities that result from the characteristics of

the external conditions. Our country thus analyzed, with profound realism, the implications of the creation of the European Economic Community (Common Market) and of the transfer of the trade-policy prerogatives of the 10 member states to the level of the community bodies. In order to secure the long-term interests of promoting trade exchanges with the Common Market countries, a series of sectorial agreements in the field of the trade in industrial products, textile products, and ferrous metallurgical products and the agreement on creating the joint commission, which sets on a solid legal foundation the trade relations with the member states, were concluded with it.

The fact that the Common Market applied, beginning in 1974, customs preferences to importation from Romania helped to increase the export possibilities of Romanian industrial products on the markets of the 10 member countries, with about one-third of our country's exportation to the EEC benefiting from the advantages of customs preferences. The good relations developed in the course of time with the countries in the Common Market, the geographic proximity, and the economic complementarities existing helped to steadily increase the volume of reciprocal exchanges. Seeking to gradually balance these exchanges, a higher rise in Romanian exports (10.8 percent at an average annual rate) than in imports (6.5 percent) was secured in the 1975-1983 period; in 1980, the balance of trade became positive for Romania. (Footnote 18) (See: "Anuarul statistic al Republicii Socialiste Romania" [The Statistical Yearbook of the Socialist Republic of Romania] for 1970-1984.)

Along with the development of the trade exchanges with the Common Market member countries, the economic and trade relations with the small and neutral countries in Europe were stimulated, with constant growth occurring in the trade with Austria, Switzerland, and Sweden. At the same time, as an expression of Romania's constant concern for strengthening the economic collaboration in the Balkans, the trade relations with the capitalist countries in this region, whose volume rose 8.5-fold in the case of Greece and 14-fold in the case of Turkey between 1970 and 1983, were developed. (Footnote 19) (Ibid.)

Among the capitalist countries beyond Europe, the exchanges with the United States of America had a significant increase, especially after the concluding of the trade agreement between Romania and the United States in 1975. In a short period, the United States became Romania's second-biggest business partner among the developed capitalist countries and its third-biggest partner in total trade exchanges, after the USSR and the FRG.

After 1975, with the generalization and expansion of the crisis phenomena in the capitalist economy, the protectionist barriers in the path of international exchanges multiplied. Romania constantly acted, both on a bilateral and a multilateral plane, within the framework of international trade negotiations, in the direction of eliminating the restrictive, discriminatory practices of some Western countries, which affected both the volume and the structure of the Romanian exportation to this group of countries. At the same time, the honoring of the obligations to pay the foreign debt, worsened by the rise in the real interest on loans in the 1980-1982 period, necessitated the adoption of measures for higher growth in exports to the developed capitalist countries than in imports, with steps being taken to encourage production for

exportation and to increase the quality and competitiveness of the products meant for foreign markets.

With the development of the exchanges, the economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between Romanian enterprises and the firms in the developed capitalist countries also expanded. The framework of principles for Romania's activity in this field was defined clearly by our country's president, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu: "This cooperation and collaboration must be based on the principles of equality between states, must start from each partner's interests, and, at the same time, must open up the possibility of a freer, wider exchange both of products and technologies and of advances in science." The forms of such relations, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu stated, "can be different--we must not try to limit them, to restrict them to a narrow framework. What we must bear in mind is that this economic, scientific, and technical collaboration and cooperation must contribute to the rapid development of each state and must exclude the possibility of forms of domination. In this way it is possible to find countless forms of mutually advantageous cooperation."

(Footnote 20) (Nicolae Ceausescu, "Romania pe drumul construirii societatii socialiste multilateral dezvoltate" [Romania on the Way to Constructing the Multilaterally Developed Socialist Society], Vol 4, Politica Publishing House, Bucharest, 1970, pp 505-506)

On this basis, over 300 actions of scientific and technical cooperation and of cooperation in production were concluded with firms in the capitalist countries during the 1966-1983 period, with a large number of them involving fields of peak technologies (data processing, aircraft construction, nuclear energy, etc.). In addition, 40 joint companies for production, marketing, and banking and in the fields of consulting and of utilization of inventions, in the field of international transportation and in the banking and insurance field, and so on were created with firms in the capitalist countries.

The joint marketing companies opened in the capitalist countries with the participation of local firms and of Romanian enterprises (Terra Power in Canada, Sotecom, Universal France, and Decofra in France, Contechemil in the FRG, Arcode in Great Britain, Romital in Italy, etc.) have an active role in promoting Romanian exports and raising their efficiency by being close to the final consumer, they fulfilling the role of true sensors of the economic situation and of the changes occurring in the demand on the markets where they operate.

The following joint companies have been set up in Romania: Romcontrol Data, in collaboration with the United States, for computer technology; Oltcit, in collaboration with France, for the production of small-displacement automobiles; Resita Rank, in collaboration with the FRG, for the production and marketing of speed reducers; and Rifil, in collaboration with Italy, for the production of acrylic threads and fibers. The purpose of their activity is to achieve products of a high technical level and to ensure the meeting of needs of the Romanian economy and of the partners and competitive exportation of high economic efficiency.

Romania was one of the first socialist countries that initiated and set up joint companies with headquarters on national territory. The economic premise

that served as a starting point for organizing such companies was clearly pointed out by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu: "The creation of the joint companies--which also presupposes foreign investments in Romania--is closely connected with the program for development of Romanian industry, as I already mentioned. Consequently, their number and size will depend on the fields in which we feel that such joint companies are necessary and in which, of course, we also find partners interested in participating with investments in Romania. The purpose of their activity is to achieve products of a high technical level and to ensure the meeting of needs both of the Romanian economy and of the partners and competitive exportation of maximum economic efficiency." (Footnote 21) (Nicolae Ceausescu, "Romania pe drumul construirii societatii socialiste multilaterale dezvoltate" [Romania on the Way to Constructing the Multilaterally Developed Socialist Society], Vol 9, Politica Publishing House, Bucharest, 1974, p 579)

The resolution of the aspects connected with the legal and organizational framework for the activity of these companies, so as to achieve full agreement with the specific interests and conditions of Romania's socialist economy, constituted an all-important element in this area of concerns. In consequence, a legal and organizational framework of a nature to resolve on a principled basis the manner of organizing and operating the joint companies set up on national territory was worked out. The strict respecting of national sovereignty and the fitting of the activity of these companies into the objectives of the national economy's planned development were combined with concern for providing to the partners sufficient autonomy in solving the concrete problems in accordance with the interests that caused them to participate.

The expansion of the cooperation in the field of international services (banks, insurance, and transportation) also had an important role. In addition to the existence of four joint banks with headquarters abroad, the following banks opened branches in Romania: Manufacturers Hannover Trust (United States), Societe Generale (France), and Frankfurt-Bukarest Bank (the joint Romanian-West German bank, with headquarters in the FRG).

In addition to the joint marketing companies created abroad, the opening of agency offices of the Western firms in Romania had a positive role in the promotion of exports, imports, and cooperation with the developed capitalist countries. Their tasks include constant contact with the enterprises in our country, so as to provide a continual flow of contracts, carried out both with the original firms and on third markets.

Throughout the 1965-1985 period, one of the main objectives of the policy of our party and state was to transform foreign trade into a active factor in the rapid growth of the production forces, in the prosperity of the country, and in the growth of the well-being of the people.

As a result of the process of industrializing and modernizing the national economy, the structure of imports and exports was gradually improved, so that, at the start of the 1981-1990 decade, the value of a ton of exported merchandise became nearly equal to the value of a ton of imported merchandise (while Romania, in the postwar period, had to export 8-10 tons of its merchandise in

order to pay for a ton of imported products). This is the result of a long process of growth in the national economy's potential, of expansion of its geographic area, and of growth in the efficiency of exports, concerns that were promoted particularly after the ninth party congress.

The national congresses and conferences of the party and the conferences with the party and state actives in the field of foreign trade and international economic cooperation laid out the main directions of action, putting a special accent on better utilizing raw materials and supplies and increasing the degree of processing of the products furnished for exportation, on producing first-rate products and offering them for exportation, in accordance with the requirements of the foreign partners, on being a constant presence on as many foreign markets as possible, and on improving the marketing network and activity. A number of organizational steps that had the purpose both of getting the economic units supplying merchandise for exportation closer to the foreign market and of increasing the role of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Economic Cooperation in implementing the policy of the party and the state in the field of Romania's international economic relations were taken in order to attain these objectives.

The changes occurring in the structure and quality of the export supply, combined with the improvement in the marketing activity on foreign markets, were the basis for the progress achieved by Romania's foreign trade in the 1965-1984 period. Year by year, the organizational, legal, and institutional framework in this basic branch of the national economy was improved in order to speed up this progress. The introduction--beginning on 1 January 1981--of the new economic and financial mechanism into the activity of foreign trade represents a notable moment in this direction. To this end, Law No 12/1980 sets on new principles--for the strengthening of economic, financial, and valuta self-administration and self-management--the export-import activity of all the economic units, so that they may increase the profitability and efficiency of the operations that they perform.

In their entirety, all these measures reflected the fact that, in this stage of development of Romania, efficiency in providing the resources needed for the further development and modernization of industry, of the other production sectors, and of the whole national economy constituted the basic criterion in the entire activity performed directly or indirectly in the field of foreign trade.

Through its creative, profoundly realistic character, the policy of expanding the economic, scientific, and technical cooperation with all states, in various fields and in varied forms, on the basis of mutual interests and advantages, contributed--to a significant degree--to the continual growth of socialist Romania's participation in the international division of labor.

This economic policy was conducted in the context of Romania's militant activity for improving the international economic climate and for promoting a new international economic order. The exemplary consistency and the unflagging perseverance of the efforts directed toward solving the problem of building a new international economic order and, in general, the cardinal problems of the

contemporary era in accordance with the interests of all peoples found a brilliant expression in the accords and understandings concluded on the occasion of the meetings and talks that Romania's president, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, held with the heads of states or governments in many countries of the world. Romania's position on the problems of eliminating underdevelopment and forging a new international economic order and of building a better and righter world turns up in these important documents. The element with the most profound significance is that, through these documents, Romania put concretely at the foundation of its collaboration on many planes with other countries the principles that, steadily and constantly, it promotes throughout its international activity, as a major premise for advancing along the path of achieving the new international economic order and of providing a climate of collaboration, détente, and peace in the world. In this way, socialist Romania and its president, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, offer to the international community a convincing example of active involvement in and high responsibility for the destinies of their own people and of humanity as a whole.

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CSO: 2700/274

MODERNIZATION DRIVE AT MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISE NOTED

[Editorial Report] Bucharest FLACARA in Romanian No 38, 19 September 1986 publishes on page 4 a 1,100-word article by Oprea Georgescu. The article is a report on a visit to the "May First" Enterprise in Ploesti, which manufactures oil-drilling equipment "of world renown" and other machines used in the oil industry.

Having spent a few hours discussing the modernization drive in effect at this enterprise with people working there, Georgescu came away "convinced that this wide-ranging directive launched by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the party, will give a decisive boost to the Romanian economy. Modernization is the number one problem of our economy, whose solution will require inventiveness and revolutionary daring in thought and in deed."

Georgescu reports on three conversations he had with important officials at the enterprise: engineer Victor Lambrescu, technical director, Constantin Tudor, of a technical office, and Cristian Teodorescu, who has worked at "May First" for 28 years, has 15 patented inventions to his credit and is chief of the machine tools and automation research and design workshop. Lambrescu had this to say: "Modernization in our case has coincided with the development of our enterprise. We are instituting a centralized debiting system to be equipped with computers. An important element is the reorganization and mechanization of our storage facilities. We are planning a trolley-type electric system of transportation to run between the foundry-forge and the processing sections. We are making greater and greater use of automated machinery. We are working on equipping parallel lathes with hydraulic copying devices, with spindles that are activated electrically and with hydraulically and pneumatically activated chucks. Accessories that will lead to modernization must be integrated as soon as possible, so these must be manufactured in sufficient number by specialized enterprises."

Tudor, the next official interviewed, mentioned that his office has "118 inventions to its credit, of which 76 have been put into application." Other innovations, says Tudor, have resulted in "reduced imports and have added over 21 million lei to our economy."

The last interviewed official, Teodorescu, opens with the comments that he has had to "worry about unsatisfactory technology, which had to be overcome, as well as coordinate the design of machine tools and devices not currently in

production in the country." But, he continues, "there are few enterprises like ours in the world." He ends by stating that Romanian innovations were, therefore, "born out of necessity."

In the concluding section of the article, one of Teodorescu's inventions, a high pressure pump, comes in for praise as does a machine for manufacturing fireproof plates or bricks which "proved to be superior to one manufactured in West Germany," according to the author. Finally, it is urged that all inventions and innovations be rewarded promptly, "an aspect that must not be neglected."

/9599

CSO: 2700/21

BRIEFS

LARGE IRRIGATION SYSTEM--Bucharest AGERPRES 25 September 86--The largest irrigation system is under construction in eastern Romania, Galati County. It will supply water for nearly 200,000 hectares. This irrigation system is not only the largest in the country but also the most peculiar one. The system must bring water from the Danube, that is from the south to the north, in counterslope. Taken out of the river the water will be pumped through a pipeline from 97m where it will be redistributed in the territory through an extensive canal network. Moreover, with a view to provide for water reserves during droughts, the irrigation system has a storage lake in the middle which will collect the precipitations in excess or which will be supplied with water from the Danube, when needed. Owing to this system 78,000 hectares will be drained, 6,500 hectares of saline soils will be improved and soil-erosion control operations will be performed on roughly 61,000 hectares. The system also includes river-improvement and flood-control works. So, floods can be prevented and the additional water is collected by irrigation channels. Work started at this system in 1979 and it will be operational by the end of this decade. [Excerpts] [Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1115 GMT 25 Sep 86 AU] /12913

ECONOMIC COMMISSION WITH NORWAY--Bucharest AGERPRES 5 Sept 86--The thirteenth session of the Joint Romanian-Norwegian Governmental Commission of Economic, Industrial, and Technical Cooperation was held in Bucharest from 2-5 September. New measures and actions were covenanted for the increase and diversification of goods exchanges between Romania and Norway, for the further expansion of bilateral economic cooperation and of cooperation on third markets in sectors of mutual interest like ship-building, oil drilling, petrochemistry and power engineering. [Text] [Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1656 GMT 5 Sep 86 AU] /12913

OIL FIELD EQUIPMENT PRODUCTION--Bucharest AGERPRES 18 Sept 86--As many as thirty-five new, high-performance products have been fabricated at the well-known "1 Mai" oil field equipment manufacturing enterprise of Ploiesti this year. Noteworthy among them are the 320-tonne drilling rig meant to operate in particularly difficult weather conditions, drilling rigs for horizontal drifts with variable diameters, as well as big-depth drilling rigs. Romania is one of the world's main oil field equipment producers and exporters. The relevant enterprises of Ploiesti, Tirgoviste and Giurgiu manufacture a wide range of suchlike products: drilling rigs, pumping units, blow-out preventers, cementing installations, rotary tables, drilling bits, 15,000-m-

deep drilling equipment, as well as machines for cutting tunnels with diameters of up to six meters. The Romanian oil field equipment that was awarded five gold medals at international fairs and exhibitions can be seen in thirty-three countries of the world, the Ploiesti enterprise alone exporting 70 percent of its output. [Text] [Bucharest AGERPRES in English 0626 GMT 18 Sep 86 AU] /12913

COMPUTER PRODUCTION--Bucharest AGERPRES 27 August 86--Romania has been producing on an industrial scale for some 18 years now competitive computation techniques and electronic equipment. In this interval a dense network of enterprises and research institutes were created, and university centres across the nation were involved in research activity. The computers of the Felix family: C-512, C-1024, C-32u, C-32p, M-8 and M-18, as well as those of the series Independent, Coral, Cub, etc., made in Romania, are known today both at home and abroad. Answering present and especially future necessities the Romanian experts designed and promoted portable and professional computers alike. So, teams in Bucharest and Timisoara manufacture two models of portable computers, HC-86 and TIM-S, both of them compatible with the Sinclair-Spectrum system. They can be used in most diverse domains, have a memory of 16-64 K0 [as received], digits are displayed in eight colours and have a precision of nine digits in the basic system. Last year 1,000 such computers were manufactured and 4,000 are to be produced this year. Of the professional series of computers, Romania manufactures at the specialized enterprise in the capital the Felix PC computer compatible with IBM-PC Model XT, one of the best and most disseminated such products world-wide. [Text] [Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1509 GMT 27 Aug 86 AU] /12913

CSO: 2020/7

INCREASING CORRUPTION AMONG OFFICIALS CAUSES CONCERN

Sofia LITERATUREN FRONT in Bulgarian 14 Aug 86 p 6

[Article by Baycho Panev, prosecutor, Chief Prosecutor's Office of the Bulgarian People's Republic: "About the Manager's Example and Prestige"]

[Text] Few are the people whom I would follow "into the fire." The old but vivid memory of my army years reminds me of one of them.

It was our regimental commander. He was not only profoundly respected but also loved by the entire personnel of the Breznik unit in 1951-1953. He was loved unanimously and absolutely! This was not only because of his rank (he was junior among the officers of his position in the large unit), but for his personal qualities. He was very exigent but, at the same time, just, humane, simple and sincere in his behavior. Quite naturally he charmed soldiers and officers. The example he set was worthy of respect and contagious in all matters, starting with the neatness of his appearance, his modest spartan apartment in town, in which he barely spent 3 to 4 hours daily to rest, and ending with his tactical skills he displayed in exercises and training classes, his excellent knowledge of military regulations and his excellent marksmanship with all types of weapons. With a temperature of 38 degrees C, he headed and brilliantly conducted a 1-week exercise under extremely difficult conditions, declining the recommendations of the physicians to go to the hospital. In summer and winter camps he bore the difficulties of military service side-by-side with his subordinates, ignoring even the minor conveniences and privileges consistent with his rank.

A united combat-capable unit was developed under his leadership and manly characters were built up....

Virtually everyone has come across such leaders and those who have not are the poorer for it. It is difficult to live without examples of efficiency, skill and apostolic dedication to the work and concern for others. It is precisely such examples that keep up optimism and give strength to resist mediocrity, petty accounts and use of a commanding position for personal advantages. Glashes create concern and drain the strength of anyone who wishes to be principle-minded and purposeful. A compromise is easier but unworthy and dangerous. The distance between them and imitating a bad example or engaging in immoral or criminal actions is short.

A worrisome trend may be noted in the penal practices of our courts in recent years: an increasing number of economic or administrative managers, who have committed crimes of greed, who have abused their power, who have forged official documents or displayed carelessness are being prosecuted. Naturally, we are concerned not by the fact that such individuals in responsible positions are being punished, for everyone is equal in the eyes of the law, but by the fact that they have taken the road to crime. Inevitably, a number of questions concerning the selection and upbringing of cadres, the social control over their activities and the reasons which have led them to commit crimes arise....

A usually underestimated question, that of the criminal effect of their negative example, is becoming equally crucial.

Currently Petur Ivanov, former secretary of the executive committee Vasil Levski Rayon People's Council is serving a jail sentence of 15 years for having accepted substantial bribes from citizens in need of housing. He "processed" the inclusion of the respective candidate in the waiting lists of the council if bribed. After engaging in such criminal activities for 5 or 6 years, he involved Mitko Vasilev, Vasil Onishtenko and other officials as his accomplices. They "brought customers" to the secretary of the RNS Executive Committee, acted as middlemen and facilitated the acceptance of bribes. They too are serving various jail terms. Meanwhile, dozens of citizens and hundreds of their relatives will live for a long time with the belief that housing can be obtained only through bribery. They would find it difficult to show any respect for the council's officials or for the authority of administrative managers. They will be prevented by the example set by Petur Ivanov, who after being elected to a high position violated the public trust.

Following are other typical cases borrowed from judicial and investigative practices:

An APK chairman was tried for accepting bribes from individuals to whom he issued permits to produce and market consumer goods classified as "auxiliary activities" of the complex. The investigation revealed that, following his example, a variety of crimes of greed had been committed by brigade leaders, accountants and livestock breeders at the same APK.

The general director of a tourist complex, who was punished for illegal appropriation, accepting bribes and other crimes, had also been the leader of a large group of defendants--his subordinates: barmen, waiters and accountants.

The familiar path through which corruption penetrates our sports has been confirmed by a number of criminal cases: document forgeries, illegal betting, fixing games or bribing soccer umpires. Managers on different levels set the tone or allow illegal incentives given to athletes and for sports games.

Similar methods are used in some crimes related to improper accounting of economic results. It is hinted to the director, the chief bookkeeper or the planning official that in no case should the report on the quarterly or annual plan fulfillment show failure to implement planned assignments. If "the

problem cannot be settled" without a reciprocal confirmation of "received" output, they must make illegal compromises with other economic managers or bank officials. A chain of criminal activities and false documents is created and undeserved bonuses are paid out.

We have no illusions that the problem of determining the level of the crime rate is so simple as to be reduced merely to the sociopsychological mechanisms of emulating and identifying oneself with model personalities. However, even these mechanisms have their role in the complex set of economic, social and other reasons and circumstances. The positive example set by the manager of behaving according to the law, honesty, self-exigency and discipline encourages labor collectives and all citizens. It hinders criminals and blocks criminal deviations even if objective conditions for committing crimes exist. Conversely, the negative example leads to corruption, which develops like a chain reaction.

All of this does not remain hidden from the working people and is manifested through public opinion. Several consecutive sociological studies, one of which was representative for the entire country (1973) and four, which were conducted in individual okrugs (Vratsa, 1973; Blagoevgrad, 1977; Burgas, 1983; and Sofia city and Mikhaylovgrad, 1984) have yielded duplicating results: 20 percent of the Bulgarian citizens surveyed indicated the negative personal example of individuals in charge as one of the main reasons for crimes.

No respect for the rank or official subordination can prevent the loss of authority in the case of a manager who has betrayed the trust of the collective. Even those who emulate his bad actions do this not out of respect for him but in pursuit of their own selfish or careerist objectives. An even wider gap separates the corrupt manager from the overwhelming majority of working people, who have a high moral and legal consciousness. The Bulgarian, who is easy to get along with and friendly, but who also has a strong sense of justice and personal dignity, does not easily accept imposed authority. He does not uncritically accept the actions of highly placed officials. He does not easily accept models of positive social behavior and, if he does, he is guided by his own quite strict criteria and evaluations, rather than the official or social status of the individual he has accepted as his model.

This national psychological feature was quite accurately perceived by G.S. Rakovski, who wrote, as early as the middle of the 19th century, the following in his familiar work "The Pointer:" "A spirit of equality prevails among the Bulgarian people, and they do not credit any ancestry; they honor and respect their elders and the brave." In mentioned noted persons, such as Levski, Benkovski, Kocho Chistemenski and other revolutionaries. Z. Stoyanov, who was well familiar with the predilections of the people, summed up the importance of the example they set to all Bulgarians: "They and no one else washed clean the face of Bulgaria and defended our sullied glory; they made the Bulgarian name known throughout the world; they scornfully rejected everything personal; they proudly and fearlessly opposed the strong tyrant.... May these national luminaries be your example." The source of such high criteria of exigency toward our contemporary state social and economic leaders of all ranks, criteria supported by our public, is briefly and precisely earmarked in the BCP program, in which respect for and trust in cadres is combined with "strict

principle-mindedness and high exigency toward them." The BCP Central Committee accountability report to the 13th Party Congress particularly emphasizes that "the role and responsibility of the economic manager have been enhanced," and appeals to the party bodies and organizations "to open the way and strengthen the authority of managers distinguished by their party purposefulness and principle-mindedness, competence and a technological way of thinking and high moral virtues, activeness and practicality."

The revolutionary reorganization of society and the successful building of socialism in the country strengthen the faith of the working people that it is they who appoint from their own circles management cadres of all types and ranks, trusting them and obeying their regulations and instructions, but also controlling their activities. That is the reason for which our public is exigent concerning the personal examples set by officials, admiring their display of dedication, ability, lofty morality and patriotism, but also showing concern for the grave consequences of any improper action they may commit.

Managers who set a bad example of delinquency, greed or carelessness are few in number. However, their actions scandalize public opinion, for which reason they cannot remain unnoticed among the overwhelmingly predominating examples of dedication, competence and concern for the interests of the people.

Fortunately, followers of negative examples are few. It is not they who determine the moral climate of the collectives. Conversely, the attitude of censorship shown by those who are around them concerning their criminal actions is extensively and clearly manifested. All of this, however, does not entitle us to lower our exigency toward those who have assumed the burden of leadership! Yes, precisely the burden and not the privilege! This is a duty of serving the people and not extracting illegal benefits from one's position! The honest implementation of such a lofty duty increases the attractiveness of the leader of a socialist type, consolidates his reputation and strengthens the labor and civic activeness of performing cadres.

5003

CS0:2200/171

RUDE PRAVO BEGINS NEW SERIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS

AU021120 [Editorial Report] Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech on 19 September 1986 on page 5 and on 26 September 1986, also on page 5, carries the first two articles in a new series entitled "Fictitious Rights and Genuine Rights." According to an introductory note, the new series will deal with the "specific application of human rights and implementation of civil liberties in contemporary class-divided world."

The series starts with a 3,500-word article by Dalibor Hanes, chairman of the Chamber of Nations of the CSSR Federal Assembly, entitled "Without Myths and Destructions." The second installment is a 1,900-word article by RUDE PRAVO staff journalist Jaroslav Mazal, entitled "Fundamentally Different Viewpoints."

In the first article, Hanes argues that whereas the United States and the West abuse the human rights issue for propaganda aims, the governments of socialist countries do not view human rights as a "cheap catchword," understand the seriousness of the issue, and therefore "implement and enforce them seriously." He claims that the Marxist-Leninist perception of human rights is "much broader and more realistic" than that of bourgeois ideology or any capitalist society and, to prove this point, reviews the pertinent stipulations of the Czechoslovak constitution. In another part of the article, Hanes then dwells on Western violations of human rights, citing, for example, U.S. "state terrorism" as manifested in the air raid on Libya or U.S. support for the Nicaraguan Contras, "anti-Afghan reaction," the followers of Pol Pot, and the "anti-Angolan UNITA"; the preparation of star wars and "unrestrained production of nuclear, chemical, and the latest types of destructive conventional weapons"; the Israeli raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunisia; the U.S. blockade of the Gulf of Sidra; mass unemployment; deteriorating social and health care in the West; or the limited approach to education and culture under capitalism. In conclusion, Hanes discusses the recent international sessions on human rights in Ottawa, Canada, and Bern, Switzerland, and contrasts the "constructiveness" of the socialist countries' approach at these conferences with the "absence of serious and generally acceptable proposals" on the Western side. According to Hanes, this was responsible for the failure of the two meetings to adopt a "document that would permit further progress in the mutual relations and cooperation of participants in the conference on security and cooperation in Europe in the humanitarian sphere."

The Mazal article contrasts the socialist and capitalist perceptions of human rights. The Marxist-Leninist concept, he says, proceeding from the determination of human rights by social and class factors, regards the existence and guarantee of socioeconomic rights as the prerequisite for the application of all the other categories of human rights (political, cultural, and individual rights); all these human rights and liberties matter only if they are anchored in the legislation and ensured by a system of social guarantees.

The "idealistic" capitalist concept of human rights, on the other hand, by its notion of "eternal, natural, and innate" human rights independent of the social system, renders, in fact, all these rights meaningless, because it fails to safeguard them economically and legally. Mazal notes that in contrast to the constitutions of socialist countries, no constitution of a capitalist country contains provisions that would guarantee the implementation of rights and liberties for all its citizens; it is for example meaningless to speak about "free" participation in political life, Mazal points out, if one does not even have a job. Mazal therefore concludes that "only the socialist social system can provide full guarantee of basic human rights."

In his article, Mazal also denounces the motives of the "massive and noisy Western propaganda campaign in defense of human rights," saying that its aim is to "destabilize the moral and political unity of the nations of socialist countries" and to create fertile soil for the formation of opposition to socialism in these countries.

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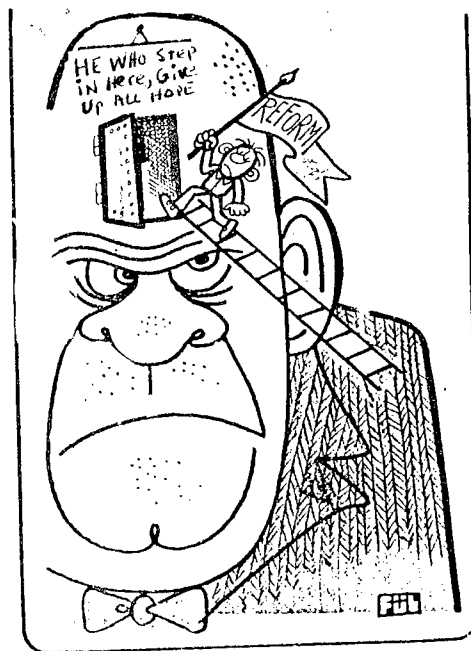
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CARTOON COMMENTARY ON REFORM SITUATION

Budapest LUDAS MATYI in Hungarian 17 Sep 86

[Cartoons]

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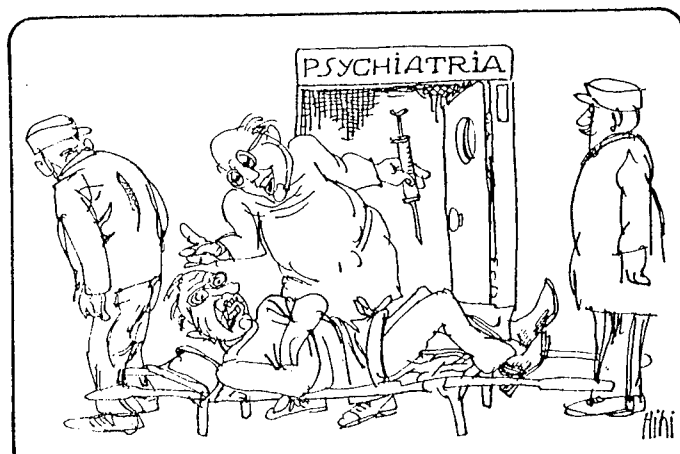


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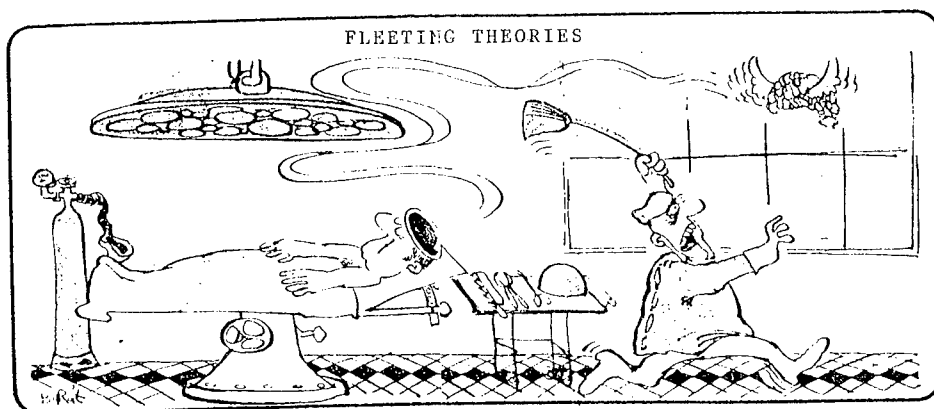


Now comrades, we are finally going to master the four basic arithmetic functions.

FALL BRAIN CLEANING



"Leasing, know-how, marketing"....
Our little patient can hardly speak
Hungarian anymore.



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CSO: 2500/16

BELGIAN PAPER VIEWS GRIM POLITICAL, ECONOMIC SITUATION

Brussels LE SOIR in French 30-31 Aug 86 p 6

[Article by Pol Mathil: "Twenty Years of the Ceausescu Clan: Rotations of the Romanian Failure"]

[Text] Of all the functions in the machinery of the power in Romania, those of the president of the country, general secretary of the Communist Party, president of the Economic Council, commander-in-chief of the Army, deputy minister in charge of Education and Science, minister of Youth and deputy minister of Defense and Interior are not likely to change the person in charge: the first four positions are held by Nicolae Ceausescu, the fifth by his spouse Elena, the sixth by his son Nicu and the two last by the two brothers of Nicolae Ceausescu.

On the other hand, all the other functions are subjected to an almost continuous rotation. Each year, there are numerous changes in the party and the government. This system, which sets in motion several hundred people of the highest rank, allows the Ceausescu clan to exercise an efficacious control over the administrative and political functioning of the country. Moreover, this is all the easier since the persons involved are not informed until the very end and even...after. That was the case with ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs Stefan Andrei, dismissed in November 1985. The "departure" of General Olteanu, minister of defense, was even more "original." It is during a meeting dedicated to the situation in the army that he learned, from the mouth of the president, that he was no longer a minister.

Save the "Ethiopia of Europe"

The rotation announced this week in Bucharest seems to be more logical. In fact, the key posts of ministers of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Finance have been entrusted to Mr Totu, Mr Vaduva and Mr Babe who are all economists, with long scientific and administrative experience. This could of course be just a coincidence, but one can also believe that this choice was determined by a truly disastrous situation of the economy in Romania, country which its own inhabitants, who are the worst off in our continent, designate as the "Ethiopia of Europe."

The Romanians are getting ready to face the third winter with regular gas and electricity cuts, limited use of heating set at about 10 degrees, almost total cut of public lighting, rationing of numerous products and disappearance of many other products from stores, decrease in salaries, militarization of entire sectors, notably in the production of electric energy, decreased use of hospital ambulance service by persons under the age of 60, plan to transfer retired people to the province, far from Bucharest, etc. Even the television, which nevertheless is all for the glory of Ceausescu, will broadcast only 2 to 3 hours a day.

How was this country reduced to this state of near beggary? There are several reasons, including three main ones. On the one hand, a blind collectivization of agriculture followed by an aberrant agricultural policy, reinforced by pauperization of peasants who, last fall, rebelled and ransacked the state silos. On the other hand, a voluntarist industrial policy, notably in the petrochemical industry, exhausted the national reserves without bringing to it the expected riches. Finally, the "Ubuesque" [grotesque] administration of the Ceausescu clan, which, in 20 years succeeded, notably through Pharaonic projects (Danube-Black Sea canal or the new Bucharest downtown requiring the destruction of hundreds of old houses often from XVII century), in ruining the country so rich in natural resources.

Weight of the Debt and of Chernobyl

One should also add to all of this two external factors. First the payment of the foreign debt goes beyond Romanian possibilities. Romania, which has always centered its economic policy on repayment of this debt to the detriment of the standard of living of the population, did not succeed this year in meeting the obligations and had to ask for the rescheduling of 1986 and 1987 payments.

On the other hand, the cloud of Chernobyl floats over Romania, in a literal and figurative sense. The first Romanian nuclear power plant, equipped by Canadians, should begin to produce still this year. And it is located 50 kilometers from the large Constanta port (300,000 inhabitants) and 150 kilometers from Bucharest (one million). After the "failure" of Chernobyl, this project was examined more closely. In addition to the outright dangerous location it was established that this area had twice already, in 1940 and 1977, suffered rather serious earthquakes....

The only justification of this arbitrariness lies in the foreign policy of Ceausescu, indisputably different from the Moscow line: good relations with China, permanent contact with Israel, condemnation of the invasions of Afghanistan and Cambodia.... Thus, in spite of the disastrous assessment of the Ceausescu regime as concerns human rights, the United States supports him by granting him from 1 year to another the "most favored nation clause," i.e. customs and financial benefits.

This policy of Washington has not been accepted unanimously, even in Washington. The American press calls Ceausescu "the most favored tyrant of the United States." It expresses thus not only the opinion of Americans, but also of the great majority of Romanians.

ATHEISTIC EDUCATION FOR VACATIONING STUDENTS

Bucharest REVISTA DE PEDAGOGIE in Romanian Jul 86 pp 31-34

[Article by Prof Toma Mares]

[Text] Communist education in general and education in an atheistic-scientific spirit, an important component of it in particular, are a continuing process which also is carried out during school hours and extracurricular activities, both during the school period as well as during vacations.

Through their variety and their more flexible nature which is less dependent on the curricula, the extracurricular activities initiated by the children's and youth organizations are especially effective in atheistic-scientific education.

The close cooperation of all educational factors as well as utilization of all methods and forms at our disposal for this purpose bring out the fact that science was born as the result of man's victory over the forces of nature, as the result of a high-level practice by which he actually subjects the world outside , discovering the reason for things, the limitless wealth of the world, resulting from tension and the struggle of opposites.

Science, the form which knowledge has taken , has permitted man to gain, together with his self-awareness, also the power to achieve, to steadily improve his human condition. Through knowledge it was possible to change the surrounding world, while work humanized man. The more knowledge it incorporates, the more work is effective and active placed in man's service. As scientific knowledge restricts the influence of religious concepts, man's dignity increases and new objective and subjective supports for faith in oneself and in human progress.

The forms and methods of atheistic-scientific activity also bring out the idea that religion is a fantastic and mystifying reflection of the surrounding world, resulting from man's powerlessness to find an explanation for phenomena and natural and social processes among which he lives. Through "divine revelation" the believer thus halves the real world, superimposing a fantastic one, without any contingencies with life. Resorting to the idea of the supernatural in the hope that through it he will conquer need and arrive at liberty, the believer becomes even more powerfully captivated and becomes alienated from himself and his human essence, becoming lost in an illogical and mysterious world, searching for moral deliverance and achievement of happiness beyond death. Being a

way of deformed thinking, a true drug which paralyzes social action and the desire to learn, religion always has opposed science, today in a socialist society being a vestige of a dead state of affairs, the reflection of a conservatism which is a hindrance to social progress. That is why Comrade Nicolae Ceaușescu stressed that "we must take a decisive attitude against the various mystical and obscurantist demonstration which hinder an understanding of the true relations between man and nature and of the laws governing the universe, of the objective requirements for social development and which are an obstacle in man's struggle to consciously create his own destiny."

During the vacation period, the atheistic-scientific educational goals achieved with the help of extracurricular activities take on new values due to extending the world of research and enrichment of the field of application as well as the opportunities which these periods of "breathers" from teaching offer for a direct confrontation of the pupils with reality, with the pulsating life of the big job sites, with all those proofs bearing the signs of the heroic struggles of the past and the present mark of our people's work and intelligence.

We should not forget that a vacation without supervision from the school and the youth and children's organizations brings the children belonging to bigoted families or those directly or indirectly under the influence of religious propaganda back into the field of attraction to mystical practices more intensely and for a longer period of time, since we know that some cults and religious sects organize a number of musical, sports-tourist activities and games for the children's free time.

That is why drawing up a rich, varied and attractive plan of activities for vacations adds to the amount of consolidation of the dialectical-materialist concept of the world by the children and counteracting the effect of a bigoted family or religious organizations.

What can the school and the Pioneer organization offer during the vacations?

The forms of extracurricular activity during vacation are varied and occupy free time in a pleasant way: walks, visits, excursions, rest camps, instruction camps, vacation clubs during some schools or Pioneer and Romania's Falcons palaces, patriotic work camps where the pupils can work on the job sites, in the fields to beautify the city and they can participate in actions to gather fruit, vegetables and medicinal plants and so forth. These kinds of vacation activities are organized regularly and involve hundreds of thousands of Pioneers throughout Romania. The problem is how these activities can be utilized with a view to fulfilling the tasks of atheistic-scientific education, for which vacations do not have to mean a hiatus.

We shall try to dwell on several forms of activity.

There is no Pioneer unit which does not plan to visit during vacation a job site, an enterprise, a state farm, an experimental agricultural station and so forth, in order to familiarize the children with productive work, with a future vocational choice, in order to awaken patriotic pride and respect for the effort and remarkable achievements of our people. A visit to the job site, to a state agricultural enterprise, to a plant is an excellent pretext for "in situ"

application of the knowledge gained in various subjects of study (physics, chemistry, biology and so forth) and for broadening technical information and enriching practical representations and even habits and for having them come to love intense and creative activities which rule the socialist enterprises and which can bring about the children's wish to work in these types of production sectors following graduation. But a visit to a production enterprise or to a research center could also be an excellent pretext for athetistic-scientific propaganda to the extent to which a number of ideas would skillfully be sifted in motivating action, ideas which must undermine the foundations of fideist concepts planted by cults or religious sects:

As the Bible says, work is not a torture or punishment, but rather the reason itself for man's being, his weapon to free himself from the encroachments of natural determinism; in order to make it as pleasant, easy and effective as possible, we use technical progress, which is not a tool of the devil leading to one's undoing, but rather a sure means for our winning freedom and creating a happy and long life more quickly;

Man is capable of creating not only material goods but of also influencing biological processes. A visit to an experimental agricultural station or zootechnical station offers enough arguments to demonstrate man's demiurgic power: varieties, hybrids, new vegetable species, new breeds of animals, obtaining giant samples and record harvests by applying rational techniques; man armed with science controls the surrounding world and directs it wisely for his economic goals but also in the interest of nature, which must be protected and regenerated;

It is not through prayer, through fasting or through "divine revelation" that great achievements are obtained but through knowledge, intelligence, a collective effort, understanding, an endless desire for improvement; what we admire is not the product of divine will but the "miracle" of man's mind, hands and technology.

The pictures of work and socialist achievements give us an extremely rich, varied and convincing demonstrative material of these cardinal ideas which can be utilized in these activities for athetistic-scientific education. They contribute in the case of pupils belonging to families dominated by mystical ideas to a moving of the demiurgic function and creative capacity from God to man, to an increase in faith in human effort to create one's happiness on earth without help from a divinity.

The visits to historical monuments are requested very often and utilized very well for patriotic education. Undoubtedly, the remains of fortresses, such as the Dacian defense complex at Gradistea Muncelul, the Greek colonies on the seaside, the Romanian defense bastions from the Middle Ages (the fortresses of Neamt, Suceava, Tirgoviste and so forth), the fortified cities (Sighisoara, Medias, Sibiu, Brasov and so forth) as well as some feudal castles (Bran, Hunedoara and so forth) or the ruins of princely manors offer an excellent "motive" for evoking glorious pages of the country's history.

We know that hundreds of thousands of Pioneers and schoolchildren spend part of their vacations in the rest camps located in the most picturesque spots of Romania. Due to their advantageous locations, the children can participate in a large number of excursions in natural surroundings. Unfortunately, many

excursions are merely spontaneous "outings" outside, whose single outcome is picking flowers, fruits, mushrooms and eventually gathering medicinal plants and organizing various games.

I have seen situations where to some extent there has been neglect of the fact that a walk through nature is a vast field for applying the "whys," of consolidating knowledge of geographic guideline, meteorology, geology, botany, zoology, biology and for forming an ecological attitude (respect for nature), for combatting religious creationism through the arguments of evolution and superstitions, by scientifically explaining certain phenomena which take place before the children's eyes (fog, storm, white frost, rainbow, lightning, thunder, lunar halo, or eclipse). Through direct observations made by the pupils, recorded, photographed or registered during these excursions, natural "miracles" may be explained simply, expressively, with indisputable tests from the flora and fauna met along the way, "miracles" subject to material causes and the dialectics of nature, such as the strange forms of some rocks, adaptations to one's environment, pollination, fertilization, communication and orientation of animals, dissemination of seeds, and so forth, demythifying a number of mistaken beliefs and literary legends.

Sports, cultural-artistic camps and camps by subject, Pioneer forums organized at the country and county level combining Pioneers with a special inclination for one type of activity or creativity have a very well-perfected program, worked out according to each one's specific nature. Here, too, regardless of what type of camp it is, references to atheistic-scientific education can be made, since many types of technical, scientific or literary activity are suited to and involved in fulfilling this political-educational goal of combatting mysticism and religious practices. So discussions, roundtables, meetings with various people who are invited to the scientific camps can reach a number of subjects capable of dispelling heresies, superstitions, theological concepts and of shaking one's faith in the cognoscibility of the world and the limitless opportunities at mankind's disposal for gradually clearing up all the mysteries of nature and of providing a logical answer and specific solutions in the near future to certain problems which currently have not been cleared up enough, thus permitting some mistaken explanations to slip through, or explanations which sow lack of faith, scepticism in the powers of scientific truth. In the literary camps, the demythification and scientific explanation of some heroes from fairytales or tales and of supernatural situations, satirizations of literary characters with backward and contrary attitudes, praise for a powerful man freed from the fear of the unknown who struggles with nature, who penetrates mysteries are of powerful educational importance and are a positive action over the awareness of those pupils whose fideism has deformed their sensibility and imagination in a certain way.

Not only sports and cultural-artistic but also activities of circles are being organized at the Palace of Pioneers and Palace of Romania's Falcons in Bucharest and the Pioneer and Romania's Falcons houses in the country and in children's libraries in some locations. The "Friends of Scientific Truth" circle or club can also operate during vacation, adjusting its activities to broader opportunities of time and disconnecting offered by this period. Conversations or lectures on various subjects, accompanied by slide or film presentations, imaginary journeys with the help of audio-visual aids, afternoons of questions and answers, small excursions in the area or outside the area with the most varied

subjects depending on the projects chosen (botanical gardens, zoos, experimental stations, natural reservations, museums) can be organized during them. Care will be taken so that certain goals of atheistic-scientific education are not lost during these activities, for which the work entitled "The Atheistic-Scientific Education of Pioneers and Romania's Falcons" published in 1984 offers the organizers a rich range of suggestions and indications. For the Pioneers in the older classes on a priority basis we recommend the speeches, discussions, open roundtables and scientific hour (presentation of scientific innovations and the presentation of the latest books in the presence of the authors), forms of atheistic-scientific education less utilized during the school year, when imaginary journeys, almanacs and scientific processes, oral journals and report sessions are organized.

Attractiveness and accessibility must be at the basis of these types of activity.

Accessibility is ensured by adjusting all these types to the particular features of the children's ages. That is why it is necessary even during vacation to have us work on an individualized basis by the three big age groups (Group A: 2d-4th grades; Group B: 5th-6th grades; Group C: 7th-8th grades). Certain methods are appropriate for each group with differing levels of comprehension. Including Pioneers from the 3d grade with those in the 8th grade in the same activity in an "economical" spirit is a pedagogical mistake. Even the collective excursions are to be organized by age and class groups.

Merely by dwelling on these aspects of extracurricular activity, we feel that vacations can and must be a field for applying the principles of permanent education and that a good and sensible organization of free time can permit fulfillment of the goals of atheistic-scientific education in this period of relaxed teaching, under conditions which are at least as favorable as during the school year, goals which are of major importance in building that complex man of the new century being shaped in the future.

8071

CSO: 2700/294

DOGMATISM IN PROSE SAID TO BE THING OF PAST

Bucharest VIATA ROMANEASCA in Romanian No 6, Jun 86 pp 56-57

[Article by Viorel Stirbu: "The Fundamental Feature of Contemporary Literary Humanism"]

[Excerpts] I must confess from the outset that I am not one of those people who thinks that Romanian prose has its origins in fairy tales or even in the works of chroniclers. Naturally, I am not including Cantemir in this group because he at least wrote one novel. This is just my own opinion and so I won't insist that everyone else agree with me. As far as I am concerned, I would place the birth of Romanian prose in the last century, when, animated by the same romantic elan determined to enrich our cultural life with original works, this type of literature found a place for itself among the works of poetry and drama being written.

In a normal literary life, currents and tendencies are plentiful and confront each other; but there is enough room for ideas, the universe is big enough to fit them all in. People wrote in accordance with formulas dictated by need--for example, the events of 1848, the war of independence, the revolt of 1907, the war of unification and so on--but other formulas were also used, of an ideological nature; finally, since there were no institutions to administer natural talents and inclinations, writers expressed themselves in accordance with their capacity to understand (or not) life as it is, just like today. And life means people, good and bad, moving in between the two cardinal points of existence: birth and its opposite.

A lot of people maintain that after the second war our literature broke with its humanist tradition in a dramatic way. During the fifties, for example, the ranks of "theoreticians" swelled and these people institutionalized schematism to the point that aesthetic judgment was deprived of any right of appeal. There was a lot of stupidity in the air and many writers were guilty of it. However, many more, qualitatively speaking, didn't care very much about the mushrooms that had sprouted from the rain of dogmatism. Let us not forget that, though blacklisted at the time, Rebreanu, Arghezi, Blaga, Goga, Voiculescu and many others did have some influence on that era. And then Galaction, Agarbiceanu, Sadoveanu, Cezar and Camil Petrescu and

Stancu carried on their work in accordance with principles established before the war. In spite of dogmatism, our literature continued to advance the good tradition of humanism. With difficulty and much sacrifice, the spirit dedicated to the conservation of authentic values made possible the reestablishment of the relationship with the art of the time. That's how it was possible to restore the great classics to their proper place and to return to the good Romanian literary tradition. Works by Marin Preda, D.R. Popescu, Barbu, Stefan Aug. Doinas, Nichita Stanescu as well as works by younger writers such as Buzura, Pitut, Mircea Ciobanu and Petre Got, to mention but a few names, pay no tribute to dogmatism. Of course, diverse tendencies exist even now and so do different points of view, but that is nothing to worry about because it is known that every artist creates his works in accordance with his own sensibilities. Diversity has been and has remained the fundamental feature of a normal literary life.

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CSO: 2700/13

USE OF 'VULGAR' LANGUAGE IN NOVELS DEPLORED

[Editorial Report] Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romania No 13693, 31 August 1986 page 4 publishes a 2,400-word unsigned article critical of certain trends in contemporary prose towards excessive use of "vulgar, obscene and sensationalized" language. Writers are accused of confusing ordinary language with "the chaotic speech of back alleys and smoke-filled beer halls" and of painting a "depressing picture of moral and physical degradation, which can only lead to contempt for mankind." The author of the article claims this emphasis is unacceptable because it runs counter to the principle that "art borrows from life whatever is meaningful and beautiful; and though we mustn't look at life through rose-colored glasses, filthy language affects art's message and art is, after all, an educational institution."

Two novels are singled out for criticism. The first is entitled "A Change of Countenance" and is by M. Sin. The book deals with the comings and goings of laborers, tractor operators, machinists, teachers, engineers, etc., living in a town/farm community. The town's mayor is described in the book as that "stupid lout Relu, whining all the time, bored to death by all the complaints he has to hear." Another character comes to look on his fellow workers as "animals, a bunch of pigs, that's right, pigs!" Drivers come to work "dead drunk; go on eating and drinking binges; curse more than they talk, polluting the air." Factory workers are "disinterested, their eyes betraying neither surprise, nor happiness nor sadness." The language used to describe elderly people and women in the community is also found objectionable. The former are spoken of as "old, jaded cattle" while some women are described as "more animals than women." An assortment of "down and out drunks, petty crooks and thieves" march through the book leading to an overall atmosphere of "sourness, cynicism and permanent disgust in which people, disappointed and lost, sink into an animalistic condition." Finally, exception is taken to certain generic descriptions of people taken as a group, who are perceived as a "herd, that allows itself to be deceived again and again."

The second book criticized in the article is by M. Oprita and is entitled "The Longest Supper." The grounds are more or less the same. Oprita "is listening to the voice of the beer hall, to opinions stated by all kinds of drunks in taverns who have come to the conclusion that 'the world is a huge pile of dung.'" Insulting and disgusting language abounds, which the author of the article finds "difficult to justify from the aesthetic point of view."

The author of the article spends the rest of his editorial looking into the question "What are we to make of this influx of gutter language into our literature?". Though it is conceded that unpleasant aspects of life should not be avoided, "the healthy tradition of the Romanian ethos" is not compatible with openly vulgar descriptions of "physiological processes, anatomical details" and the like nor with "loudmouthed cursing and other such language from the repertoire of the slums." The writer goes on to express concern that a novel's use of insulting epithets directed at women characters is likely to promote unhealthy attitudes towards women in general and towards the institution of marriage.

The writer rejects as "all too convenient" the explanation that this phenomenon of overuse of vulgar language represents an expression of "emancipation, of antidogmatic attitudes." Far from being expressions of "courage", bad taste and dirty language are said to "ignore the fact that realism does not consist of a mechanical reproduction of reality." Nor is it the case, the writer continues, that strong and forthright language is always more "authentic" and more "realistic." That is true only when such language has an artistic function. The novels under discussion are said to fail to meet this requirement.

Though highly critical of the trends he has been discussing, the author of the article, in conclusion, does not suggest that such trends ought to be ignored. Rather, it is proposed that the debate be continued in further issues of SCINTEIA under the editorial topic "Respect for the word, love for the beauty of writing." Contributions will be invited from readers from all walks of life such as linguists, writers, professors, workers and peasants.

/9604

CSO: 2700/15

REVIEW OF NOVEL DEALING WITH 1784 UPRISING, NATIONALISM

Bucharest LUCEAFARUL in Romanian No 39, 27 Sep 86 p 3

[Article by Nicolae Georgescu: "Beyond the Legend"]

[Excerpts] It is not easy to write about this great novel "1784. Changing Times." Eugen Uricaru is after factual truth, and on the basis of factual truth erects an essentially traditional narrative which is at the same time qualitatively modern. A single concept lies at the heart of the novel, that of betrayal. The principal character, Nut Maties, betrays Horea. The Austrian Emperor Joseph II betrays Horea. The phantom officer who is the companion of the head of the uprising betrays, in the book, Horea and Nut Maties. The cause of Horea's uprising itself is the betrayal of Romanians by Romanians. Alongside the other burning demands of the rebels--elimination of debts, induction into border regiments, land distribution, freedom, etc.--the most important one was: the destruction of the "Magyarized" Romanian nobility. Through the creation--by the Pope in accord with Austro-Hungarian policy--of this grotesque admixture called the Uniate Church, a church neither Orthodox nor Catholic, Transylvanian Romanians who betrayed their Eastern Rites were given the opportunity to climb up the social scale towards the ranks of nobility. They betrayed, in effect, the vast majority of Romania people who were faithful to the ancient law of the land. The rebels went after them with a vengeance and hit on a method of great simplicity to set things right: soon after they had broken into the nobleman's castle, they would improvise an open air church and would have Orthodox priests carry out a mass baptism of those Romanian traitors who had forsaken, along with their faith, their people and customs and gone over to the Hungarian side. Only those who refused to return to the ancient law were executed, those who persisted in betraying their fathers and grandfathers. Eugen Uricaru emphatically underscores this aspect of Horea's uprising, placing this event into the context of a Romanian equation, transforming the bloodshed of 1784 into an eruption of national sentiment cutting through the thick and heavy network of deception that had been thrown over the Romanian people of Transylvania.

However, Eugen Uricaru also builds another model beyond this point of view, a model much more coherent, much purer, the true kernel of the novel. This has to do with the role of the leader in the Romanian awareness, the blind desire of Romanians to have a leader [voievod], the ancient awareness of a call to

unity, to action. Horea does not live among the rebels, he lives somewhere in the mountains near the caverns. Everyone wants to see him, to find out whether he has the letters [from the emperor Joseph II promising the emancipation of the serfs] he talked about, to have him read them out loud. What are Horea's orders? He makes them up on the spot and yet they are commandments which every person holds. Horea is a principle, the "king" who safeguards what is written. Absent, he is rediscovered by the multitude and the latent powers of the nation are directed spontaneously when the need for an "emperor," for commandments arises. Why did Horea burn Joseph II's secret letters, preferring to die on the wheel rather than betray the emperor's private thoughts? What greater proof of the trustworthiness of this magical name than the sacrifice of Alba Iulia [where Horea was executed]? Those poor emperors of Austro-Hungary entered the realm of legend through the Romanian people, a people among the few in the empire to have a sense of empire--a sentiment which they had preserved in their ancient being as an essential ethnic datum. That is the sentiment being ardently debated in Eugen Uricaru's novel, on a high essayistic level.

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CSO: 2700/26

BRIEFS

PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR--The president of the Socialist Republic of Romania decrees that Comrade Mihail Ionel Cetateanu is relieved of his position as counselor of the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania. [Excerpts] [Bucharest BULETINUL OFICIAL in Romanian Part I No 55, 17 Sep 86 p 1] /9599

REMOVAL OF MINISTRY OFFICIAL--The president of the Socialist Republic of Romania decrees that Comrade Aurel Antoniu is removed from his position as deputy minister of the food industry and the purchase of agricultural products, for improper activity. In accordance with legal provisions, he will be assigned to work in production, to perform a task, and he will not be permitted to carry out management functions for a period of 3 years. [Excerpts] [Bucharest BULETINUL OFICIAL in Romanian Part I No 55, 17 Sep 86 p 2] /9599

CSO: 2700/27

ANTI-ALBANIAN VANDALISM AFTER SOCCER MATCH DETAILED

Belgrade NEDELJNE INFORMATIVNE NOVINE in Serbo-Croatian 31 Aug 86 pp 13-14

[Article by Aleksandar Tijanic: "The Cloning of Cockroaches"]

[Text] Before we go our separate ways on interpreting causes and consequences, as is our fine custom, let us at least take a look at the facts. On the night of 13 August, following a soccer match between "Red Star" and OFK (junior club), a group of fans ("fewer than 100 and more than 50") headed for the railroad station, waving red-and-white banners. The expedition, as the participants themselves say, had a "teaching purpose": to "teach wisdom" to the "Partizan" fans returning from a match in Kragujevac.

Although the Belgrade railroad station is entirely suitable both in appearance and spirit as the site of a ritual conflict between soccer addicts, or "Gypsies and Gravediggers" as they nickname themselves, warfare between fans did not materialize. That is to say, the match with OFKites and the atmosphere in the stands were so calm that a clash with the black-and-whites presented itself as a logical "safety valve." This seemed to be a just penalty for the purchase of the "Red Star" fans' icon of yesterday, Milko Djurovski. A supplementary motivation was discovered at the stadium: the "Red Star" players had allegedly been beaten up at their match in Pristina, and national team player Fadilj Vokri had transferred from the Kosovo capital this year to the "Partizan" team.

To warm up at the stadium, the new folk-style song "We Shall Toss, We Shall Toss a Shell on Pristina" was followed by the song "The White Lily Has Blossomed, We Await the General" (many of the singers were unable to explain which general was in question, though that is clear from the subsequent context). Incidental references were made to the classic themes from "The Heroes Were Dancing in the Heart of the Land of Serbia" and "The Serbian Trumpet Sounds From Kosovo." So far as intoxicating beverages are concerned, resin-flored brandy was consumed in the stands, along with vast quantities of beer. Thus heated up, the lads went through Karadjordje park after the match was over, obtaining weapons by breaking up a few benches.

Some interpretations say that several stands selling sunflower seeds, peanuts, periodicals, and lottery tickets materialized in front of them at precisely that inconvenient juncture. By a selective process of elimination, two stands

were chosen (owned by Albanians) and their boards broken to the accompaniment of shouts of "Storm them, brother Serbs!" The other stands were not disturbed, because they are "ours," as one of the attackers explained. The owner caught inside received light injuries. The "victors" triumphantly began singing the [Chetnik] tune, once familiar (1941-1945), "From Topola to Ravna Mountain, the Sentinels of General Draza Are Everywhere."

Tucovic and Corn

From this assault point, the group moved on a run to the next height. There, on Dimitrije Tucovic Square (he the author of "Serbia and Albania"), the numerous "brotherhood" came upon two vendors of roast corn, both clearly of Kosovo origin. After surrounding the grills in a narrowing circle in complete silence, several adolescents gathered up the corn. One of the crowd kicked the head of one of the "shopowners" with a classic karate gesture, while both grills deteriorated under blows from sticks. Under the impetus of the initial enthusiasm, furnishings in the nearby "Freedom" coffeehouse also took a beating.

Next, the horde passed along Marshal Tito Street, more or less incognito except for the pinching of an occasional female passerby, to the Student Cultural Center, where several hundred young Belgraders find entertainment for themselves every evening. After breaking through the fence like grasshoppers, they shrieked and threw chairs around, interrupted the movie showing, tore up the screen, put a little fear into the bones of guests at the bar in the summer garden (mostly secondary schoolers), and finished the assault with equal speed by vanishing into the dark of the surrounding streets. From that point, seeing that the "thing was escalating," the group began to thin out. Only 30 remained by the time they reached the Belgrader building and beat up two more corn vendors, destroying the means of production of the latter as they went along.

The program becomes slightly more sophisticated at this juncture. Proceeding along National Front Street, the fans paused in front of the largest maternity ward in the city to greet the "birth of new Serbs" with applause, shouts, and singing. On the way, casually, the window of one more confectionery shop (owned by an Albanian) was broken. Finally, the group reached the railroad station. This sounds strange, but the train had arrived on time. The "Partizan" fans had already gone home; so did the members of the "punitive expedition," calmly and peacefully.

Policemen on Vacation

To judge by distances and the time needed for each of these incidents, the operation lasted 60 to 90 minutes. During all that running wild in the center of Belgrade, the group did not encounter a single guardian of the peace. That fact, plus the fact that arrests of "extremists" occurred only later (after 2 days), can be presumed to be why the city's internal affairs secretariat refuses any conversation on this subject, asserting that the dossier is with the investigative judge. Since the latter is also unwilling

to chat, we have reconstructed 13 August on the basis of statements by witnesses and the protagonists themselves.

According to the official report, published a week after the event, eight youths were arrested, including two juveniles, who have been formally accused of arousing ethnic, racial, and religious hatred. The others are liable for misdemeanors. The oldest in the group were Goran Pecic (24 and employed), nicknamed Peca Punker, and Vlada Erakovic (22 and employed), called Vlada Chetnik for his long hair. The youngest are about 15. Two in the group had been sentenced for yelling "Ustasas!" at the soccer match with the "Hajduk" team [of Split] after Rozic transferred to the Australian "Croatia" team. Most of them live in Zemun, Resnik, Batajnica, Vrcin, and other localities on the urban periphery.

The Belgrade SAWPY coordinating committee for nationwide defense and social self-protection described these events as "organized vandalistic/nationalistic/pro-Chetnik behavior." The persons who run this committee say in conversation that "we have never had such an incident in terms of either form or content in the capital city since the war," stressing that there had been no attacks on property owned by Albanians living and working in Belgrade in the past year, ever since the well-known window breakings.

The public has responded variously, from the opinion that this is traditional hooliganism (although honest old-fashioned hooligans break up everything in their way and avoid ethnic selectivity) to the opinion that the incidents will provide material for wrong conclusions about the "political temperature" in Belgrade. Like most of our modern political phenomena, however, this one represents a mixture of clean and dirty elements. Something that might have begun as an ordinary march of fans turned into a horde whose ultimate activity was indubitably chauvinistic.

The results of the investigation and any eventual trial will show whether they set off on this enterprise organizedly, with the intent of breaking up the Albanian small-business community in the city. In any case, the participants themselves state that the group was composed on the basis of parity between two fans' organizations of which the public has heard little or nothing. One group calls itself "Ultras," the other "Red Devils." The former, so named because it represents something extreme to its membership, has negotiated with the team newsletter ZVEZDINA REVIJA to obtain office space, is registered with the police, and operates as an association of hard-core fans. The "Red Devils" are solely concerned with making a ruckus. Both groups have travelled to root for their team, mostly to Zagreb, Split, and Pristina. In their self-contained mythology, they repeat tales of attacks on "Red Star" fans in those cities, from the ear bitten off in Pristina to the marathon stampede from the center of Split, not to mention all the other familiar incidents in other places.

Advocacy of Chaos

The question as to why this happened precisely in 1986 in Belgrade is difficult to answer, but a possible response can be deduced from the characteristic answers by which the protagonists explain their participation:

1. An 18-year-old: "I participated in this because I advocate universal chaos (opsti lom). When the English can, and they are smarter than us, why shouldn't we?"
2. A 16-year-old: "I was drunk. I did what the others were doing."
3. A 19-year-old: "I did it because I hate Albanians, Croats, and communists."
4. A 20-year-old: "In this way I am protesting the unequal status of Serbia in relation to the other republics and provinces. I feel like a pan-Serbian nationalist."

Almost no one, so far as we could find out, has said during the investigation that he felt repentant; instead, "nobler" motivations are sought for the violence. Naturally, justification for everything can be found in everyday life. Only good will is needed to be swinish; afterwards, the act can be raised to a higher level by a selection of various proofs. Obviously, in a situation when affairs in society are going downhill or uphill, either way, nationalists multiply by reciprocal cloning in geometric progression. The question is whether we can any longer, according to our ancient custom, search for a way to exterminate nationalism among young people, in athletics, in goal-oriented education, and in journalism while leaving untouched the overall orientation of universal separation, firmly believing that the principle of interconnected vessels does not apply in society and that the situation in one realm does not affect the temperature in another. Today your common street hooligan in Serbia says that he is aggressive "because the situation in Kosovo is not right." That can scarcely be a joker card, a justification, for absolutely everything!

This is just one more proof that this specific incident is not a soccer problem but an endemic problem of this society.

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CSO: 2800/17

PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH LOW BIRTHRATE EXAMINED

Encouraging Birthrate

Sofia LITERATURE FRONT in Bulgarian 7 Aug 86 p 6

[Text] The editors received a large number of letters on the subject of the article by Dr Totko Naydenov "The Children Without Whom We Cannot Do." All of them prove the concern of today's Bulgarian people for such a vitally important problem as the future of our nation. In addition to personal hurts and dissatisfaction and the various opinions and recommendations which were expressed, all letters indicated the need to take vital and real steps which would yield expected results: strengthening the family and increasing the number of children. This problem is as psychological as it is social and cannot be solved in one fell swoop. That is why the editors are publishing and will continue to publish our readers' opinions.

Nation's Future

Sofia LITERATURE FRONT in Bulgarian 7 Aug 86 p 6

[Letter to the editors by Vasil Popov, lawyer]

[Text] The problems which are raised in the article "Children Without Whom We Cannot Do" are not new.

My attention is drawn to the legal aspects of the topic. Let us consider them from the inside. Our dynamic legislation successfully reflects the social policy of the BCP: laws have been passed on encouraging the birthrate, the housing of new families, pregnant women and mothers of small children....there is an entire list of laws in this area, some of which mentioned by Dr Naydenov.

However, what matters when it becomes a question of the social acquisitions of the young family or of increasing the birthrate? We must bear in mind that in terms of the individual mother and individual family what matter are not the overall social policy and the stipulated legal guarantees but their refraction through individual needs. It is precisely this that defines the behavior of the individual toward the problem of the birthrate.

Our legislation, which is the legal regulator of social relations, is doing its job! However, we are very far from the stipulations, and there is a great disparity between wish and reality! Why is there a gap between the laws and their application? The reason is the dulled feeling of responsibility for the implementation of legal stipulations and the delayed elimination of familiar contradictions between legal possibilities and practical efforts to ensure their implementation.

We know that the Regulation on the Allocation and Sale of Housing, Council of Ministers Letter No 47 of 1980 and Council of Ministers Letter No 40 of 1984 are not being strictly implemented; the people's councils allow the existence of shortcomings and irregularities in the application of these documents, which adversely affect the housing needs of many new young families. For years on end, families which are no longer young, are still waiting for the housing problem to be settled. It is true that housing construction has fallen behind requirements and that the problem is complex and difficult to solve. However, how long will the organization of the allocation of housing and weaknesses in the application of the laws remain objects of study and criticism while matters remain unchanged? Probably as long as the subjective factor has not begun to operate entirely in accordance with legal and moral requirements.

It is no secret that individual officials yield to corruption. Some of them are already serving terms for bribery while others are awaiting trial.

We know that the Ukase on Encouraging the Birthrate, the Labor Code and other legal acts contain a number of favorable regulations concerning pregnant women and women with small children, such as leave for pregnancy and giving birth, paid leave after that for raising the children, and other special leaves. But why is it that such important social gains are not decisive in decisions related to having a second or third child?

Should we not in the future, *de lege ferenda*, as the lawyers say, advance toward more general social gains in raising small children: reduced working time after the paid leave, such as half-time work (20 hours weekly). I say reduced rather than partial, which would be based on a law and not on the decision of the manager of the enterprise or establishment. In the case of women raising small children a 4-hour working day would represent a higher level of social justice and a greater incentive for giving birth.

My other suggestion is to increase by law the amount of free medicines for the treatment at home of children between the ages of 6 and 10 and free travel on urban transport facilities of children aged between 7 and 10. Unquestionably, this would ease the family budget and provide a new social incentive.

We know that the Regulation on Credit Activities of the State Savings Bank allows making house loans to young families (to build or buy) and canceling part of the loan under specific conditions. This is a major material aid. Never before has the state provided such extensive and significant social support to pregnant women, mothers and children as it does now. Never before have they been provided with such comprehensive legal protection. What is missing?

The problem of the birthrate cannot be solved with material incentives alone. Giving birth and motherhood are not the monopoly of people who are materially well-off, of the rich. Social practice convincingly proves this and even proves the opposite. Poverty and a poor material situation did not prevent our mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers from having many children (my mother had five).

The current desire for material goods has its negative aspects which yield results opposite those desired. We cannot correct them with property "injections." We must enhance the social prestige of mothers and families with more than one child and they must be relieved from some daily hardships. Motherhood status must be emphasized in places of work and residence. Mothers must be respected and honored. Comrade Todor Zhivkov has frequently said that if under contemporary conditions any kind of cult may be allowed, it should be only the cult of women. Such cult is particularly necessary in the case of pregnant women and mothers.

No one can be coerced into having children. Creating a new life is the sacred right of women. It is extensively encouraged in our country but must be developed and improved. Material support requires specific steps which would meet all requests for places in children's institutions, family passes to resting facilities, participation in trips and other cultural steps, contributing to the family budget by lowering the prices of children's clothing and shoes and others (subscription travel cards, free annual trip on the railroads, etc.).

I am well aware of the fact that an increase in social gains involves an increased share of the national income and is not easy to accomplish. There is not other way, however, for the Bulgarian Constitution stipulates that "mothers must enjoy the special protection and concern on the part of the state." The Family Code adds the following: "The socialist society and the state encourage the birthrate and defend and encourage motherhood; they help parents in raising and bringing up their children."

All such social acquisitions unquestionably encourage the birthrate. In this respect the policy of the party and the government is clear. What is insufficiently clear, however, is why is it that in practice some of these gains are not made available?

This becomes a task for social control, for the control-supervisory authorities, which must see to the observance of legal stipulations everywhere, penalize violators and hold socially responsible officials who violate the legal rights and interest of pregnant women and mothers.

Support and assistance of motherhood and in raising children is a problem the solution of which is not possible on the basis of one-time fixed measures. It is a process which must be updated and improved legislatively; it requires improving the social climate and the home atmosphere in which mothers live.

Our country has real conditions for providing an even better solution to problems related to the birthrate on the basis of legal standards and guarantees issued by the state and the material support provided by society.

However, not everything can be solved merely by passing laws.

What is left is the subjective, the human, the personal factor. It is this factor that will solve all problems, given the awareness of individual and social duty and practical action for the sake of the future and the happiness of the Bulgarian nation!

Housing Scarcity

Sofia LITERATUREN FRONT in Bulgarian 7 Aug 86 p 6

[Article by Lozan Takev]

[Text] Although the conclusions and facts quoted in the article were depressing, they could be considered as almost constructive and even containing a note of optimism indicating that a solution is possible.

Surveys, interviews and partial studies and also simply looking around us immediately indicate the conditions without which we cannot change the psychological feelings of most Bulgarian families.

Unquestionably, housing comes first. Currently the housing that is being built in our country is mainly for childless families or families with a single child. How can one live in a bachelor's or a one-room apartment with two or three children?

When we had a single child I was given a two-room apartment. Then we had a second child and everything immediately changed in the house.... It became crowded and uncomfortable. We had our second child when my daughter was already 13 and we, as parents, were already more mature and, perhaps, even wiser. We could and did compromise with the conditions without which a young family cannot do: housing, transportation, placing the child in kindergarten or medical services. But what about an adequate variety of goods for children, such as clothing, shoes, and so on, and let us not even mention their prices....

Here is an example. We bought for my son, who is 4 years old, a pair of trousers for the summer, made by the Mladost DSO, rated as first quality. Indeed, the price of 18.2 leva indicated that the quality should have been even better! That same evening we saw that the zipper was faulty. We complained, were given another pair, again rated first quality, but it too proved to be defective. Once again we complained, the item was replaced and this time at least salesclerks at the TsUM were more pleasant about it. The case of the pair of slippers, which were exceptionally uncomfortable, was worse. For lack of choice, however, we took whatever we could, after which they had to be "corrected," for otherwise the small feet of the child could have been hurt. And so on.

The problem with enrolling a child in kindergarten in the more outlying residential districts is universally known. How many children are there within a single group? Could the educators handle 40 children at the same

time? Furthermore, child care increases as the child grows. Once again there are problems of clothing, shoes, other services, school problems, etc.

One out of four families in Sofia has a tight housing situation, I would even say one out of two.... Meanwhile, an untold number of apartments are left unused; there also are smaller families which live under much better conditions; some apartments are kept empty, waiting for children yet to be born, grandchildren, etc.

Naturally, these are merely some of the externally visible problems, which largely determine or at least justify the psychological barrier facing the young when it comes to having a second child. However, this is no justification for the nearly 30 percent of families in the capital who are childless or people who have not set up families.

Problems of internal migration, naturally, have complicated a number of features of living in a large city. The harm caused by a sharp decline in the birthrate, however, is an excessively stiff price to be paying today, a price which I almost fail to see how it can be lowered in the forthcoming years....

Aid to Families

Sofia LITERATURE FRONT in Bulgarian 7 Aug 86 p 6

[Article by Nadezhda Kabakchieva]

[Text] The article by Dr Totko Naydenov raises for public discussion touchy problems of the nation, the most important among which is the drop in the birthrate. I believe that our party and state are taking decisive steps in this respect. A specific manifestation of this concern is the decree on the further implementation of the December program in the part pertaining to young families.

At the same time, however, I believe that some sociostate bodies in our country have not looked for all available sociomoral reserves for strengthening the marriage and increasing the birthrate. One such unused (and even rejected) possibility is aid in solving personal problems of setting up families.

In order to have children, one must have a family. Help is needed in setting up families. People must meet one another.

The press has frequently discussed the need for social concern for the problems of people without families in our country. The safe possibility of meeting people, which existed in the past--the neighborhood--has virtually disappeared. Architects and construction builders designed and built some new districts in such a way that in most of them merely meeting people is difficult, not to speak of close meetings. Sociologists point out that three-quarters of the residents of large cities maintain virtually no contacts with their neighbors. The old public fountain, at which "I met a dark-eyed, beautiful, tall boy" has disappeared. The professional marriage broker with a list of unmarried girls and boys in her apron has disappeared. We do not

bemoan such losses. What is more terrible is the simple fact that today we have neither the time nor the facilities for meeting other people.

A person who has not set up a family does not simply suffer from the lack of a steady circle. In most cases such a circle exists--professional colleagues, relatives or friends.

"There are mountains, there are clubs, there are trips abroad," he keeps deluding himself. However, he reaches an age when it becomes difficult to engage in self-delusions, and when even the most interesting work is no longer attractive, or else one has already said good-bye to his work and colleagues and, as the saying goes, has taken his deserved rest. It is this deserved but lonely rest that is the hardest to bear. Loneliness has developed into a pain and, imperceptibly, the personality crumbles. Such a person may seem unpleasant to those around him because of his persistent wish to be paid attention to and sympathized with. The mechanism of his reactions is clear. It is like a young women telling her friend, see how beautiful my new dress is; the loner appears indignant, grumbling, boring. All of this, however, means one thing only: I am lonely, pay attention to me.

Dear Editors....

Letters to editors keep reminding us that a personal problem is not exclusively personal. Here is an excerpt from a letter: "If you can, help me to find a path in life, to find a person with whom I could share happiness and sadness. I try not to complain to you, dear editors, but the pain has entered my soul. You may not care about me but I do not see where else to pour out my pain, which is getting worse day after day, and needs an escape valve." By M.V. in Vratsa. "I am 36 years old and have everything--education, housing, and car. Yet I have nothing, for I have no family or child." By R.Ts. in Pazardzhik. "Comrades, I am 31 years old. One year ago I divorced my husband. I do not believe that I will find a suitable friend. Last Saturday my friend and I telephoned all youth clubs in Sofia asking the same question: Will you be having this evening a dance or a discotheque meeting. We did not get a single positive answer.

"I may go to the theatre, but meeting someone there is not considered proper. I refuse to meet people if I am alone in a restaurant. Perhaps young people who work in a large collective have better opportunities. I, however, am a seamstress in an industrial combine. How can I become friendly with someone and how can I set up a new family?" "I am an old bachelor of 43. The term may seem insulting but it is accurate. I shall probably remain one." V.D., Ruse. "Could the editors help me to find a woman with whom I could correspond. I would be grateful to you." Ts.R., Lovech. "I am writing you to make me feel better, to think that there may be other people like myself. Without a friend, without a person who can understand and help you at difficult times, life is sad." S.V., Plovdiv. "I am already 30 years old and I find it difficult to meet people. When I was a student I thought that everything was easy. I did not pay proper attention to meeting people, thinking that I had plenty of time. I graduated and I went to work in a village. At first I became friendly with a good girl but I underestimated her and we separated (which I shall regret for the rest of my life). Since the

city of S. is nearby, I frequently go there in the hope that luck may smile at me, but the picture is always the same. In the evening, when people go to the promenade, those like me, in their 30s (let me tell you that they are numerous), would walk two or three times up and down the main street and, finally, will resignedly go to a restaurant. They start drinking as though they wish to forget the unpleasant thought that they still have no one close. Naturally, the next day they either do not show up for work or else, if they do, they cannot work. Not only they but the entire society loses from this. I thank you for reading my letter." N.K.

But let us be specific. A total of 424,000 people between the ages of 20 and 29 and 203,000 people between the ages of 30 and 39 were married. There are 229,045 divorced and 638,755 widowed people in the country. There are 560,000 people past the age of 60 who are alone. That should be the subject for a separate article. All in all, there are 1,465,000 people over the age of 20 who have not set up families.

Obviously, the argument as to whether acquaintanceship bureaus should or should not be set up has long fallen behind true social needs. The acquaintanceship service is necessary not for its own sake but as part of the unified psychosocial system (consisting of all nonexistent or underestimated services, such as family consultation, sex-counseling centers and psychoprophylactic offices, the purpose of which would be to forecast and help to prevent undesirable processes (divorces, bachelorhoods, abortions, loneliness) rather than merely record them after the fact. For example, social forecasting could "predict" the type of settlements in which loneliness may develop as a result of limited interpersonality contacts, caused by an "surplus" of some professions and absence of others. Like any human process, happiness and the opportunity of having a family could be directed. This may have a somewhat industrial flavor but is a fact.

Czechoslovak specialists have estimated that a divorce costs the national economy 250,000 korunas (25,000 leva). In his study of the human mentality, Academician Amosov uses the term LSC—level of spiritual comfort. He has been able to express emotional conditions, such as happiness or sorrow, in figures and has drawn up tables with concepts which may appear strange to those unfamiliar with the subject, quantifying happiness and health.

Psychological Aid

We still do not entirely realize that such aid (and not psychiatric) is quite important although difficult to include in files, laws and plans. It would be difficult to determine its efficiency and to compute bonuses or other tempting awards for it. Regardless of the formal difficulties this involves, it is not proper for us to be the last socialist country without organized help in setting up a family.

For a long time now journalists have written about confidential telephone systems operating in other countries; editors sent their representatives abroad, who proved the need for such a telephone service. Several months of experimentation yielded results which were unexpected even to the specialists. From the very first hours after this telephone service was organized in Ruse,

hundreds of people from all over the country used it. After Ruse such psychological assistance services were opened in Plovdiv, Vidin, Blagoevgrad and Kyustendil. For the time being the only confidential telephone service, combined with family consultations, and with the assistance of the newspaper STUDENTSKA TRIBUNA is in Sofia (opened one day a week and for students only). Let us not be surprised that it is only this student telephone service that operates in a city with 1 million population, such as Sofia. Apparently, by the same strange logic in dealing with intimate problems, the number of sex consultants in the capital city can be counted on the fingers of one hand (yet the largest number of abortions take place here, committed by secondary school girls or very young women, and it is here that the largest number of children are born out of wedlock). It was journalists who took up the project of the confidential telephone service and it was again journalists who undertook to help in providing psychological aid. The press supported the "Contact" clubs which had become notorious in Plovdiv and Sofia. The newspaper POGLED and the periodical ZHENATA DNES opened acquaintanceship rubrics. For a long time various departments shifted among themselves the responsibility for developing such services. We would find out that a special bureau would be opened either by "Local Industry" or "Comprehensive Services." While the other fraternal countries were gaining experience, engaging in serious studies and creating systems for help in choosing a partner according to the specific aspects of the spirituality of their own nations, and created scientific research institutes to deal with family problems, we remained frozen on the level of the argument of whether there should be acquaintanceship bureaus or not. Meanwhile, the problems increased greatly. And whereas some 10 years ago we were speaking of the bureau (the first harbinger is already a fact: the Mayak enterprise for comprehensive services in Varna is advertising an "Acquaintanceship Bureau, which is the only one in the city and the country, located at 8 Gen. Zaimov Street, where for a fee of 6 leva you are given access to file No 1 of registered subscribers, to make your successful choice"), today we need a system of organized assistance in setting up families, as part of the overall activities of a future institute on family problems. We have no such institute yet but already have well trained and enthusiastic specialists who have conducted several substantial studies. They could become the nucleus of such a future collective.

Let us hurry before it is too late.

5003

CSO:2200/161

CARTOON COMMENTARY ON CRIME

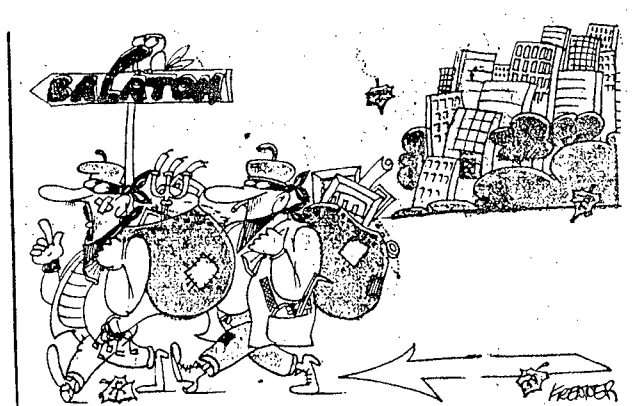
Budapest LUDAS MATYI in Hungarian 17 Sep 86

[Cartoons]



Reorganizing, reorganizing, are we!?
[Reference to the new law on bankruptcy to
liquidate or reorganize unprofitable enterprises.]

Change of Climate



Finally, we are finished with the home burglaries
in Pest. Now we can start the season for weekend
houses.



Constable Sir! Do you know how hard it is
to find an enterprise nowadays that has money
in its coffers....

/9365
CSO: 2500/17

- END -